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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-001
Tuesday
3 January 1995

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-001 *3 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Report on Clinton-Baraq-Syrian Meeting Confirmed

TA3112194094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff, as well as the two countries' ambassadors, met with President Clinton in Washington last week. The meeting lasted about 40 minutes. This was reported today by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

According to the newspaper, President Clinton told the sides they do not have much time left to reach an agreement, and then voiced his concern on the issue. He urged the meeting participants to explore the possibility of achieving understandings in the Syrian-Israeli security arrangements.

Speaking to our Washington-based correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, Israeli sources in Washington confirmed the report by THE NEW YORK TIMES. Our correspondent adds that Washington expects high-ranking Israeli-Syrian talks to be pursued in the future.

The newspaper further notes that, in his recent meeting with President Clinton in Damascus, President al-Asad agreed to an eight-month Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel, the newspaper says, will withdraw in slightly over nine months, and will effect a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights within the next three years. Furthermore, President al-Asad is ready to establish some type of diplomatic relations with Israel during the first phase of withdrawal.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik adds that sources in Israel have confirmed tonight that the Washington encounter had indeed taken place. Our correspondent further reports that in future talks the sides plan to involve additional experts, such as jurists and water experts, who will be instrumental in formulating the peace accord.

'Arab Diplomatic Sources' on Israel-Syria Talks

JN0201155495 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 2 Jan 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—AL-MAJD has learned that the Syrian Government has categorically rejected an Israeli request to reduce its Armed Forces if Syria and Israel reach a peaceful settlement.

Arab diplomatic sources, which have access to the results of the meeting to exchange views—which was held in Washington between Syrian and Israeli military delegations under the sponsorship of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher—said that the Syrian delegation strongly rejected this request. The Syrian delegation added that this issue is unnegotiable.

The Syrian delegation said the security arrangements on both sides of the border should be taken on the line on which the troops were deployed on 4 June 1967. The delegation also called for equal and balanced security arrangements and rejected the presence of any control posts or any Israeli monitoring equipment on the Golan following Israeli withdrawal.

The Israeli side called, during the meeting, for reaching an understanding on some limited measures and security elements and for leaving the issue of defining the geographical area for security committees which will be in charge of drawing up the maps.

The Israeli delegation said it is not authorized to discuss the issue of the geographical area, adding that the Syrian demilitarized zone should be nine times the demilitarized zone on the Israeli side.

The Syrian delegation said it was authorized to discuss all details provided that Israel withdraws from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and returns to the 4 June lines and that the security arrangements on both sides of the border should be on equal footing. [passage omitted]

Oman To Pursue Contacts With Israel; Qatar To Follow

TA3012124094 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Oman has informed Israel it intends to pursue the contacts toward opening mutual liaison offices sometime next month.

The message from Oman was relayed via Bruce Kashdan, the Foreign Ministry's special envoy, who is in Muscat. Foreign Ministry officials say that at this stage it does not appear that the Syrian pressure on Sultan Qabus has been successful; it appears that the Omanis intend to adhere to the agreement achieved with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in November, an agreement which was reiterated by the sultan during his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, namely, the sides will open liaison offices in the beginning of 1995.

Over the next few weeks contacts will continue with the Omanis over the precise shape of the representations: liaison offices, interest offices, or economic representations.

Apparently Qatar will follow Oman in opening an office in Israel. The third country slated to join was Bahrain, but it will apparently postpone the official ties with Israel due to Shiite riots, which erupted there two weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee To Meet

'Urayqat Arrives in Cairo

NC0301080095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local administration in the

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Palestinian National Authority, and his delegation arrived in Cairo this evening to take part in the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which will begin tomorrow in Cairo.

Dr. 'Urayqat stated upon his arrival that the committee will discuss some pending matters topped by three major points. These are: settlements, in view of the Israeli onslaught; Jerusalem; and the detainees.

He added that the Palestinian delegation has prepared a list of the Israeli violations, particularly on settlements. The list includes the lands, houses, and even trees that have been expropriated, all of which are supported by maps clarifying the areas and the places where the settlement attacks took place.

He said that despite the fact that the Cairo agreement stipulates the release of 5,000 Palestinian detainees upon signature, the Israelis are still stalling on this matter. He pointed out that there are 5,600 Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

He pointed out that tomorrow's meeting will not be easy and that the Israelis have to be convinced that peace and settlements cannot go together. [passage omitted]

PA To Be Presented With Violations List

TA0201121695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 95 pp A1, 8

[Report by Aluf Ben and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a meeting of the Supreme Liaison Committee in Cairo tomorrow, Israel will present the Palestinian Authority [PA] with a list of dozens of violations of the Oslo and Cairo accords it claims the Palestinians have perpetrated, in particular disregard for law enforcement, as well as activities against terrorism.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, will claim in the meeting that the PA has still not presented Israel with the list of people recruited to the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho; the opposition organizations headed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad have not been disarmed; requests for the extradition of terrorists who have murdered Israelis have fallen on deaf ears; the Palestinian preventive security service in Jerusalem operates in Jerusalem in violation of the agreements. Other Israeli complaints refer to violation of administrative arrangements specified in the Cairo accord. For example, the PA's issue of stamps and passports do not meet the requirements of the accord.

Political sources in Jerusalem said "the Palestinians do whatever they please and ignore the agreement. Sometimes, their activities conform with the accord, while in many instances they do not. Some of the violations were halted after we drew their attention to them while others have not changed. There are many violations, which go up all the time, but they do not respond appropriately." In the previous meeting of the liaison committee, the Israelis raised complaints about violations of the accords, and Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, said he knows nothing about it.

It was decided that in this committee meeting both sides will present their charges of violations of the agreements. Israel believes the Palestinians will raise allegations about holding up the implementation of the accord, not meeting decided on timetables, and the nonopening of a safe passage between Gaza and Jericho. The liaison committee, headed by Shim'on Peres and Nabil Sha'th, will convene tomorrow. The agenda of the meeting will be influenced by the outcome of the cabinet deliberations on building at al-Khidr. If it is decided to halt work at the site, the liaison committee will discuss issues linked to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accords and the negotiations on an interim settlement on the West Bank and elections in the territories. [passage omitted]

Peres, Delegation Arrive

NC0301081995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0704 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his delegation arrived in Cairo this morning for a one-day visit during which he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Peres will chair the Israeli delegation to the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee today. The committee will discuss unresolved issues, including the Palestinian elections and the transfer of powers.

Foreign Minister Musa received Peres at the airport.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Musa, al-Shar' on Arab Reconciliation, Peace Process

MM3012140194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "King Fahd, al-Asad, and Mubarak Stress Reinforcement of League, Urge Iraq To Embark on Other Steps in Compliance With International Resolutions; Alexandria Summit Supports Syria, Defines Rules Of Arab Reconciliation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria, Damascus—[passage omitted] In exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa and [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' said that the summit produced positive results which will soon impact on Arab action as a whole.

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Musa said that the results are practical and important and affect the Arab situation on all tracks, the crucial issues pertinent to protecting and maintaining pan-Arab security, and the call for solidarity and organized coordination.

He praised the success achieved by the summit and the agreement among views vis-a-vis developing the Arab League and reactivating its role in the future.

Al-Shar' told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The summit came at a very important time, namely at the beginning of a new year, but Israel still has not announced its commitment to the peace process to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. And Syria received full support from Egypt and Saudi Arabia as regards the importance of achieving a full, unflawed peace on the basis of withdrawal from the Golan.

Al-Shar' added that the tripartite summit stressed this matter just as the Casablanca Islamic summit and the Gulf Cooperation Council summit did recently. It is a clear position over which we do not bargain. And Israel must respect the resolutions of international and Arab legitimacy and Syrian rights without engaging in further offers designed for circumvention.

He said that some of the states that have rushed to announce normalization with Israel will not implement this normalization before a comprehensive peace is achieved on all the tracks. But Israel got mixed up and has begun to increase its intransigence and conditions in the negotiation process on all the tracks.

On the achievement of Arab reconciliation Faruq al-Shar' announced that all the Arab states, including Kuwait, support Arab reconciliation, but that requires new arrangements and foundations in order to avoid a repetition of what happened in the summer of 1990.

'Amr Musa said that the Alexandria summit represents an example to be followed at the level of general Arab action in terms of understanding and coordination. He pointed to the important role Saudi Arabia is playing under the custodian of the two holy mosques to overcome the problems the region is experiencing, and the coordination with Egypt and Syria for the sake of finding solutions and means capable of solving them.

He added that the new year will witness numerous important steps aimed at settling many problems and determining the future of the peace process in the Middle East. Especially as we have revised and assessed the course of the Arab-Israeli negotiations as a prelude to broaching the priorities.

The Egyptian foreign minister urged Israel to comply with the UN resolutions in order to achieve peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, to avoid stirring up problems on the Palestinian track, to commit itself to the honest implementation the Gaza-Jericho accord, and to complete the so-called redeployment in the West Bank in order to hold the elections.

On his assessment of the tripartite summit, he said that it proved that joint Arab action is still all right and unity, solidarity, and coordination still can be achieved. [passage omitted]

Syria Said To Have Vetoed 'Arafat Participation in Summit

MM3012150194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed political sources close to Alexandria tripartite summit circles have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria rejected Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's participation in the summit's proceedings as originally planned.

The sources said that Egypt tried to persuade the Syrian president to include 'Arafat in the summit, but the Syrian reply stressed that the time was not suitable and that Syria is suffering from a very serious problem, which the Syrian side explained as follows: some Arab states' rush toward Israel—which is leading to the achievement of no progress on the Syrian track and requires a serious pause for examination to regulate Arab contacts with Israel.

The sources pointed out that the summit was confined to the three leaders to avoid any problems, since the sources described the summit as the summit of the more understanding states.

They added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria are the strategic base for important political Arab action, since these states participate in discussing Arab problems and in drawing up practical views to solve them.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that it was agreed at the tripartite summit to make high-level contacts with the other Arab states to brief them on the results of the summit's proceedings. The sources expect the Saudi, Egyptian, and Syrian foreign ministers to visit Arab states for coordination and consultation over all Arab issues.

'Abd-al-Majid Notes Results of Alexandria Summit

NC3012145494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that Alexandria's tripartite summit is an important turning point in the Arab, regional, and world situation and that it will have positive effect on the Arab world.

He added that during their meeting, which was dominated by a spirit of amity, brotherhood, and understanding, the three leaders proved their ability to adopt stances on important issues. He noted that these stances, which primarily aim at bolstering a comprehensive and

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just peace based on the Arabs' legitimate rights, realize the Arab countries' aspirations for stability and development.

He said that these great stances showed support for the Arab League and its organizations, from which any Arab action emerges, and the need for a serious and sincere commitment to the League charter and the joint defense pact.

He extended words of thanks and appreciation for the three leaders and affirmed the League's eagerness to exert every effort to achieve the hopes and requirements of the Arab nations from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arab] Gulf.

'Abd-al-Majid: Circumstances Right for Arab Summit

NC0201070395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid leaves Cairo for Kuwait today on the first leg of a trip that will also take him to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He said that he will hold talks with senior officials in the three countries on Arab developments, results of the Alexandria summit, and ways to restore Arab solidarity.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said in an exclusive statement to the Central News Department that after the Alexandria summit, circumstances are now appropriate for holding an Arab summit. He said the Arab League is eager for the Arab nation to regain its prestige and strength, especially after the Alexandria summit.

League To Meet 5 Jan To Discuss Israeli Settlements

NC0101165995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Council will hold an urgent meeting at the permanent delegate level on Thursday [5 January] to discuss Israel's violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and its continued settlement building in these territories.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today invited the permanent delegates to attend the meeting at the request of the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate at the Arab League, to discuss the Israeli settlements development and to prepare for the League meeting.

Omani Envoy Briefs League Chief on Rabin's Visit

NC0101173095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-Busa'idi, Oman's ambassador in Cairo and its permanent delegate at the Arab League. They discussed Arab developments in the context of Arab reconciliation, for which arrangements are under way. The secretary general was also briefed on the outcome of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent visit to Oman and on Oman's view on the issue.

Arab League sources said Rabin's visit to Oman was part of the efforts to advance the peace process in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions concerning the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and durable peace.

The sources added that the Arab League secretary general's meeting with the Omani ambassador came in the context of Oman's desire to brief the General Secretariat on Rabin's discussions with the Omani officials.

League Chief Begins Gulf Tour To Support Arab Accord

NC0201114295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Kuwait this morning at the beginning of a 10-day Gulf tour during which he will visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

He said upon departure that the tour will provide a chance for consultations with the officials of the three countries on various issues and on what the Arab League can offer to achieve Arab reconciliation and support common Arab action.

He noted that the tour comes in the wake of the successful minisummit in Alexandria, which brought together Egyptian President Husni Mubarak; Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad; and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Egypt, Syria, Saudia Arabia Adopt Unified NPT Stance

JN0101181195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria—A summit that brought together the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, and Presidents Mubarak of Egypt and al-Asad of Syria, was held in Alexandria yesterday. The three-way session was preceded by two tete-a-tetes, the first between Mubarak and al-Asad, and the second between Mubarak and Fahd. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned that the three leaders decided to adopt a unified stand and refuse to sign the international nuclear nonproliferation treaty [NPT] at the international conference slated for Geneva 17 April through

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12 May 1995. They will insist that Israel sign first and will support all regional and world efforts geared toward removing Israel's weapons of mass destruction and denuclearizing the Middle East. Informed Egyptian sources point to the three leaders' emphasis on the need for Arabs to stick to the position they are expected to announce at next March's Arab League session and the importance of following the example of Egypt's declining to sign the treaty banning chemical weapons. An official Egyptian source said Egypt is leading a counteroffensive against an anti-Arab campaign objecting to the acquisition by Arabs of weapons of mass destruction. The argument the Egyptians advance to promote their position on a denuclearized Middle East is this: We are advocates of peace and we are for a total ban on weapons of mass destruction rather than a limited one on chemical weapons. We want to see a prohibition on biological, nuclear, and other weapons of mass destruction and want this embargo to apply to all, rather than some, countries of the region.

Islamic Affairs

AIS: 'War Against France' is Duty Under Koranic Law

LD3012153494 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] War against France has become a duty under Koranic law, says the latest bulletin, with today's date, issued by the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS]. Under the title "The Islamic Salvation Army's Striking Victory," the AIS specifies that such a war has become a duty dictated by the laws of war, after the Airbus hijacking clearly revealed the collaboration existing between the Algerian and French authorities.

ICO Urges Afghan Factions To Abide by Cease-Fire

LD3112183694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 31 Dec—Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has called on all the Afghan factions to accept and abide by the call for a cease-fire issued by the United Nations to enable the UN special mission headed by Mahmud Mestiri to visit the various parts of Afghanistan during its current mission to achieve peace.

The ICO secretary general expressed the organization's support for the efforts of the UN special mission. He stressed that the ICO and the United Nations were still coordinating their efforts to bring about peace throughout Afghanistan and that the ICO would cooperate completely with the United Nations in the efforts it was currently exerting in this regard.

Dr. Hamid Algabid pointed out in a statement he issued today that his personal envoy Ibrahim Bakr will be paying a visit to the region in the near future. He explained that the ICO is looking forward to the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan, noting that the 7th ICO summit conference passed important resolutions about them.

The ICO secretary general appealed to all Afghan factions to seize this opportunity to realize peace, put an end to the suffering of the Afghan people, work alongside one another and channel the vast energies of the Afghan nation toward reconstruction, social, and economic development of the country.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 21 Dec

NC2812133794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

NOTE ON PUBLICATION: This issue of AL-NUR is the first to appear since 13 July 1994. It bears the number 604. The 13 July issue of the newspaper bears the number 603. The newspaper, which previously indicated on its inside pages that it is a weekly publication, does not explain in this issue why it failed to appear for over five months. This issue of the newspaper now says on page 4 that AL-NUR is "an Islamic newspaper that publishes on Sundays and Wednesdays."

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NEWSPAPER DEMANDS APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC SHARI'AH

The newspaper leads with a 600-word unattributed article on pages 1 and 5 calling for the application of the Islamic shari'ah as the "best and only solution to all the problems and crises" faced by Egyptian society. It introduces its article under the main banner headlines: "Islamic Shari'ah Ensures Reform and Stability for Society and Removes Causes of Opposition and Extremism," and "The People's Assembly Failed To Keep its Promises To Gradually Apply Shari'ah and Amend Laws." In its article, AL-NUR argues that if the Islamic shari'ah is applied, extremist thought will be nullified and terrorism will end. It writes: "Our aim is to spread the word of God the almighty and call for the application of his esteemed shari'ah. Our method is advice and good preaching. We do not claim that we are capable of

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applying the shari'ah, but we call on our rulers to apply it and rule us with Islam." It adds: "When this noble call is met with objection or opposing views, we resort to objective and constructive dialogue with the opponents. We do not call for oppressing an opinion or thought as long as it is removed from sedition and fanaticism. We condemn the use of arms and firing in the streets to horrify peaceful citizens and kill innocents." The paper says the call for the application of shari'ah proceeds from the Constitution. It criticizes the People's Assembly for sluggishness and "procrastination" in passing the necessary legislature for the application of shari'ah, which, it reiterates, is the best medicine for terrorism, economic retreat, and social collapse.

AL-AZHAR DEFENDED AGAINST EXTREMISM ALLEGATIONS

Page 3 features a 2,000-word unattributed report defending al-Azhar against attacks by "secularists" who claim that this religious establishment "is trying to impose itself as a censorship authority over thought," and who "went as far as accusing al-Azhar of supporting terrorism." The report cites Shaykh Fathallah Jazar, director of al-Azhar's Research, Translation, and Authorship Department, as emphasizing that al-Azhar "is not and will not be against authors and freedom of thought. All that it wants is to protect Islam from venomous ideas, which have these days unreasonably increased." Shaykh Jazar explains the process of revising publications and says al-Azhar cannot approve of books or works that harm Islam. He explains why al-Azhar opposed certain books, maintaining that they contain falsehoods about Islam.

Another unattributed 700-word article on page 3 defends al-Azhar director Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq against "irresponsible allegations" by "secularists and communists" that he and the extremist Islamic groups use the same language but different tactics. The report selects some excerpts from previously published remarks by Jad-al-Haqq to prove that he is against extremism, terrorism, and the killing of tourists and innocent people.

ISLAMIC SUMMIT FRUSTRATED MUSLIMS

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 contends that "the Islamic summit in Casablanca, Morocco, came up with nothing new and frustrated the Muslims of the world." The report says that the summit statement was full of condemnations, denunciations, and appeals but no effective resolutions. The report particularly cites the summit's failure to do something tangible to prevent "the massacres against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya."

EDITORIAL ARGUES SHARI'AH 'LOFTIER' THAN OTHER LAWS

The newspaper's 1,500-word front page editorial, signed by Board Chairman al-Hamzah Di'bis, discusses how the Islamic shari'ah, as opposed to man-made laws, views the relationship between debtors and creditors. The editorial writer wants to show that the provisions of the Islamic shari'ah are "loftier" than other laws and regulations. He begins by stating: "Thank God, AL-NUR still works for the application of shari'ah, not only in Egypt but throughout the world, as God the almighty ordered. Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, was not sent to the Egyptians or the Arabs alone, but as a mercy on the entire world." He adds: "In its effort to show that the provisions of the Islamic shari'ah are loftier than other laws and legislations, AL-NUR continues to compare man-made laws and the provisions of the shari'ah." In his analysis, the editorial writer maintains that Islam bases debtor-creditor relationships on tolerance, solidarity, and understanding.

LEFT-WING PARTY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON ANTI-ISLAMIST IDEAS

Page 4 contains an approximately 3,000-word interview conducted by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zarqani with Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, on his "attacks" against Islamists. Al-Sa'id is introduced to the readers as "one of the secularist elements known for their tough attacks against everything Islamic. He devotes his weekly column in AL-AHALI to attack al-Azhar ulema and the Islamists." Still introducing him, the writer adds: "Not only that, but he [al-Sa'id] never forgets to claim in his writings that he is defending true religion, exactly like what Faraj Fudah [assassinated by Islamists] used to say in his writings."

In the interview, al-Sa'id reiterates and defends his view that al-Azhar is not an authority above the state and that Islam should be separated from the government. Asked his party's position on the constitutional stipulation that the Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation, al-Sa'id answers: "We are committed to the Constitution and to the constitutional text that the Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation, but the authority that can establish this is the parliament." He claims that al-Azhar and the Islamic movement "are interfering in everything and want to impose trusteeship on us and be the only spokesmen for Islam." Asked why the secularists and leftists link Islam and terrorism, al-Sa'id answers: "There is a clear difference between Islam and terrorism, but those who claim to represent a moderate Islamic trend do not exist on the stage. Show them to me. As far as I am concerned, they are all of the same class and of the same school, although they differ in method, in timing, and in what they say in public." He adds: "If the Muslim Brotherhood assumes power, it will mix religion and the people who rule in the name of religion, and Islam will become the ruler. This happened in Sudan and Iran, where no one can criticize President al-Bashir or Hashemi-Rafsanjani without being accused of criticizing Islam."

AL-GHAZALI, WRITER CRITICIZE HASTY PEACE WITH ISRAEL

An unattributed 150-word report on page 8 cites Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali as expressing

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astonishment at the "haste" of many Arab countries to conclude peace with Israel. Al-Ghazali reportedly wonders how the Arabs could make peace with Israel when the Jews covet Jerusalem and the al—Aqsa mosque.

An unsigned 500-word article on page 2 says Israel managed to achieve its strategy in settling the conflict with the Arabs through concluding separate peace deals with some Arab countries. The writer maintains that separate deals favor Israel because they create Arab divisions and weaken the Arab League.

ISLAM DEFENDED AGAINST TERRORISM CHARGES, SECULARISM DISMISSED

An 800-word article by Anwar al-Jundi on page 4 discusses secularism as a Western concept based on separating religion from the state. The writer says that "secularism is an alien idea in our countries, representing not a neutral position toward religion, as they say, but a hostile position toward it." He says secularism places Muslims in a sharp contradiction with the fact that Islam is an integrated religion that organizes society's life.

A 1,200-word article by Mahmud Shukri on page 2 distinguishes between fundamentalism and terrorism. The writer sees in the linkage between the two, as promoted by Western media, sedition and conspiracy. He charges that Western media, through this "malicious linkage," played a role in igniting and exploiting this terrorism. He says official media in the Islamic world ignorantly echoed this linkage, showing that the Islamic governments are participating in the campaign against Islam and Muslims.

BOSNIAN ENVOY SAYS SERBS, ALLIES TARGET ISLAM

A 500-word report by Mustafa Khalifah on page 1 cites the Bosnian ambassador in Cairo as telling the paper in an exclusive statement that the ultimate objective of the Serbs and those who support them "is to annihilate Islam from the heart of Europe." Our chief concern, the ambassador adds, "is to preserve our Islam and our Islamic culture and identity." He criticizes the role of NATO, the UN forces in Bosnia, and the UN secretary general. He praises the support given to the Bosnian people by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Austria. "The rest of the world is offering only media demonstrations for emotional consumption," he says.

MUSLIM CHECHNYA WILL DEFEAT RUSSIAN INVADERS

A 600-word unattributed report on page 2 analyzes developments in Chechnya and maintains: "Just as Afghanistan was a graveyard for the former Soviet Union, Chechnya will be a graveyard for Russia, which is conceited about its force and the support of the West. And just like the Soviet Union departed mujahid Afghanistan in humiliation and defeat, the Russian invaders will get out of Muslim Chechnya, which chose to live free under the banner of Islam."

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on al-Khidr, Efrat Settlement Disputes

'Massive Riot' Near al-Khidr

TA3012125694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrating at the entrance to al-Khidr are trying to force their way onto the disputed territory, and a massive riot is taking place. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was hit by a blunt instrument and lost consciousness.

In a mass prayer held in the village earlier, the local imam said that every grain of Palestinian soil from the river to the sea belongs to the Muslims.

The Fatah organization in Bethlehem issued a leaflet calling on the public to join the demonstration on the disputed territory. The leaflet states that the peace is suspended until the construction work on al-Khidr territory, as well as other disputed areas, stops.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is calling on the Palestinian Authority to suspend the negotiations with Israel over the expansion of Efrat. 'Abd-al-Shafi, who headed the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel is continuing to build illegal settlements, which creates a crisis of confidence in the peace process.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that dozens of Peace Now activists are currently blocking the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road at the exit from the capital, after the army prevented them from reaching the Efrat area.

'Arafat Hails al-Khidr Struggle

JN3012185894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat applauded the citizens who gathered at the al-Khidr village in the Bethlehem district as part of the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli aggression represented by settlement in al-Khidr and other areas in the occupied territory. In a speech by telephone addressed to the popular rally held in the village after Friday prayers, 'Arafat said: I congratulate you on your struggle in defense of our land. He added: You have chosen the difficult path, the path of freedom and truth.

'Arafat asked the Palestinian masses to continue their defense of the Palestinian land in order to establish rights and realize a just peace that will be cherished by our people.

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In further developments, fierce clashes broke out between the Palestinian citizens and the Israeli forces in al-Khidr and were still continuing at 1630 today despite the imposition of a curfew on the village. [passage omitted]

'Abbas: Talks Could Be Halted

JN3112171594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Dec 94

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] In light of the ongoing peace process, there are many obstacles and repeated Israeli attempts to obstruct the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement, especially with regard to the issue of expanding settlements, confiscating territories, and detaining thousands of our people. How do you view the future of the peace process in light of this?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that the obstacles are there. Many of those who do not want peace, or who are hurt by peace, will place obstacles in the face of peace. As for the question of settlement activity in particular, I am greatly concerned about this behavior, which is supported by the Israeli Government. This is because settlement activity should not only be not expanded, but should end, because settlements are established on occupied territory. We have agreed that the negotiations should take into consideration Resolution 242 and 338, namely, withdrawal from Palestinian territory. Therefore, expanding the settlements only obstructs peace. We not only demand that settlement activity be not expanded or intensified; we also demand the removal of settlements because they are on Palestinian territory. This is if the intentions on the Israeli side are good and seek to enhance, bolster, and safeguard the peace process.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], given the Israeli Government's continued escalation of the situation, what is the program of the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority to face this situation?

['Abbas] The question should be discussed at length. In principle, there should be decisive and specific stands toward the issue of settlement activity. The cosponsors of the peace process should be asked to intervene quickly. The negotiations should also center on this important issue alone. Otherwise, why not halt the negotiations as an expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of what we see every day on television—the fierce clashes, not only between the settlers and the Palestinians, but between the Israeli Army and the Palestinian people. This takes us back to the beginning, as if these developments want us to forget that we have embarked on a joint political process to build peace.

[Correspondent] If Israel does not submit, are you for halting the negotiations?

['Abbas] As a matter of fact, the process of settlement activity is not a simple one. Settlement activity, as I have observed, is a very ugly process. If things continue this way, I will be greatly frustrated about the peace process. It is not logical at all that we should continue to negotiate if the Israeli Government continues to build settlements. We have put the issue of settlement activity on the agenda of the final stage. We must recall here that when we went to Madrid, we went on the basis of a U.S. letter of assurances and Resolution 242. The U.S. letter of assurances said that the features of the territories should not be changed, and that nothing should be changed, that is, things should stay the same. Also, it was perfectly understood when we signed the Oslo agreement that we should discuss the fate of settlement activity. But, for the government or the settlers, from time to time, to expand the settlements, this regrettably shows bad intentions and actions that do not encourage us to proceed.

[Correspondent] Of course, this is happening with the support of the Israeli Government.

['Abbas] Definitely. I said the Israeli Army is doing that, and not only the settlers. Both are confronting the Palestinian people. We saw settlers carrying arms and confronting the Palestinian people, and this contradicts the Declaration of Principles, which says that the Israeli Army will protect the settlers, not the settlers themselves. Therefore, they have no right to bear arms. However, and with extreme regret, it seems that matters are proceeding contrary to what has been agreed upon.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-Mazin, have you contacted anyone from the Israeli Government regarding this issue?

['Abbas] Well, this is the duty of the brothers in the authority. I think they are constantly in touch with the Israeli officials, with the prime minister and foreign minister and the negotiating teams. I know that there are negotiations and that the brothers in the authority follow what is happening.

[Correspondent] Thank you Abu-Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee.

Cabinet on Settlement Activity

JN3112175594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Settlement in the occupied territories, particularly in the lands of al-Khadir village, topped discussions by the Council of Ministers of the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA] during its weekly meeting in Gaza this morning, chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Details are in the following report by correspondent Za'al Abu-Ribti:

The NA Council of Ministers held a lengthy meeting today under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. It discussed the ongoing expansionist

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activity and the confiscation of territories in various parts of the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

In a statement, the council said it believes the new settlement activities are just as dangerous as those taking place in the al-Khadir village area, in particular, and in Jerusalem and its suburbs, al-Birah, Tulkarm, Kafr al-Labad, Hebron, Husan, and others, in general. The statement says: While it expresses its pride in the role of our people, as well as that of the committees for defending the land, in confronting the settlement aggression that is being committed under the protection of the occupation forces, and while its voices its great appreciation for the role played by the Israeli peace forces, the Council of Ministers calls for launching a campaign to defend territories in all areas that are threatened with settlement in our homeland.

The Council of Ministers stressed its appreciation for the European countries and the other friendly countries for supporting Palestinian rights and denouncing the settlement activity. It also voiced its appreciation for the communique issued by the Alexandria summit regarding the protection of Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's rights. The council believes this comprehensive settlement campaign and what is happening in Jerusalem completely conflict with the Declaration of Principles accord. The council also believes this Israeli policy, epitomized by the settlement activity and expansion in all Palestinian areas, is threatening the peace process with collapse.

The statement also says: The Council of Ministers, while following up these serious developments, will continue its work and will call for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. The council also urged the two sponsors of the peace process—the United States and Russia—the European countries, Egypt, Norway, and the world community to shoulder their responsibility toward this serious development that is threatening the peace process.

The council reiterated that the settlement onslaught is a political issue that needs a political decision by the Israeli Government and is not a legal case falling within the jurisdiction of the Israeli courts.

The council added: Our masses, who are being exposed to this onslaught, are aware of this fact and they should act accordingly by refusing to resort to the Israeli courts to put an end to this onslaught. It said that confiscating territories, expanding settlement, and opening new roads at the expense of our people's land and property are carried out in accordance with an official decision for which the Israeli Government is responsible. They flagrantly violate the application of the Declaration of Principles on the ground. This, it said, strips the Israeli Government of its credibility. The statement adds: The Palestinian Authority [PA] will not allow any side to bypass this issue by using treacherous ways. Those who have exploded the outstanding final-status issues pertaining to Jerusalem and the settlements did so by a political decision in order to harm the dignity of the PA and to destroy the peace process. Hence, the statement says, the priority of the Palestinian negotiator will focus on the issues of Jerusalem, the settlement, and the prisoners.

The Council of Ministers has also decided that as of tomorrow and throughout next month, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports and Youth will cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture to plant trees in threatened areas. The Palestinian delegate to the Arab League will call an urgent meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council to discuss this issue. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Secretary General of the PA, said that the Council of Ministers has received a message of welcome from large popular sectors for the idea announced by Uri Avneri regarding the establishment of a Palestinian-Israeli nongovernmental organization that will meet regularly to oversee the implementation of the Oslo accord. The Council of Ministers asked Palestinian nongovernmental organizations to follow up this issue.

The council then discussed the political communique issued by the Alexandria summit and deemed it an important and positive one, particularly regarding the situation on the Palestinian track. The communique stresses the need to withdraw from the occupied territories and Jerusalem, as well as the right to self- determination, and criticizes Israel's procrastination and its desire to normalize relations with the Arab countries before meeting the land-for-peace principle. The Council of Ministers also believes the communique is a new beginning for a new phase of Arab relations and stresses the need to support this position to restore Arab solidarity under these dangerous circumstances and to confront challenges facing the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Al-Tibi Warns Intifadah To Resume

TA0101063195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, warns that the intifadah will resume if settlement construction is not stopped. The Palestinian Authority is awaiting the Israeli Government's decision regarding the expansion of the settlement of Efrat. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that if the expansion of Efrat does not stop, the peace process will.

Tzomet is demanding that the attorney general cancel al-Tibi's Israeli citizenship and put him on trial for incitement and rebellion. Knesset Member Moshe Peled told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that al-Tibi's threats that the intifadah will resume constitute a clear violation of the law and endanger public order.

Al-Tibi on Efrat Appeal Withdrawal

TA0101122695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, said today that the Palestinians decided to

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withdraw their petition to the High Court of Justice against the expansion of the settlement of Efrat. Al-Tibi explained the move by saying that the decision to stop the settlement drive in Efrat should be political and not judicial. He also claimed that the court usually does not help Palestinians in cases of land seizures and house demolitions and, based on past experience, they decided to withdraw the petition. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Tibi made these remarks during a demonstration held by villagers from Dayr Qiddis, near Ramallah, protesting the seizure of lands for the settlement of Qiryat Sefer.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 1 January carries a related report by Yoni Ben-Menahem on the Dayr Qiddis demonstration. In a recorded reply to Ben-Menahem's question on whether he had called for a resumption of the intifadah, al-Tibi says: "No. I issued a warning and expressed the fear that if Palestinian lands continue to be seized for the benefit of the settlements, the public will react as it did in the past and the intifadah will resume."]

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said today that he supports continued construction in Efrat. According to him, from the legal point of view, the settlers are right. The minister noted that he supported the construction of the neighborhood some 10 months ago and is not changing his mind now. At the same time, Ben-Eli'ezer said that he will respect any government resolution or the recommendation of the attorney general but that he will make sure that his opinion is heard in the cabinet session. The minister added that if the work in Efrat is stopped, this may set a precedent for settlements in the Jerusalem area, such as Giv'at Ze'ev. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Minister Ben-Eli'ezer made these remarks during a tour of the Jordan Rift Valley.

Hamas Vows To Oppose Policy

TA0101094395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced that it will oppose the Israeli settlement policy with all its might and called on the Palestinian Authority to oppose it as well. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a Hamas leaflet says that a man who claims to represent the Palestinian people should protect it and its land.

Sha'th: Settlements Threat to Peace

NC0101113995 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 1 Jan 95

[By Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 1 (AFP)—Israel must pledge at self-rule talks on Tuesday [3 January] to halt settlement building on the occupied West Bank or else risk plunging the peace process into crisis, Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Sunday.

The Palestinian team would be seeking guarantees that all construction work would cease when they meet the Israeli delegation headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

"The continuation of the settlements in the West Bank is the biggest problem today and if they (the Israelis) don't put forward a solution it will cause a serious crisis" in the talks, Sha'th told AFP.

A row has erupted between the Palestinians and the Israelis over work on building 500 new settlers homes at the Efrat settlement just south of Bethlehem and close to the Palestinian village of al-Khidr.

Clashes broke out Friday between troops and 2,000 Palestinians and their Israeli supporters who tried to march on the site and halt the work.

The settlers issue is at the heart of the deadlock between Israel and the PLO in talks on extending self-rule on the West Bank.

Israel has grown increasingly reluctant to redeploy its troops ahead of Palestinian elections to a self-rule council amid army warnings that it will be impossible to protect the 120,000 settlers on the West Bank.

"We are taking into consideration Israel's security needs, but we have proposed a solution of joint patrols like those created under the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord" which launched self-rule in May, Sha'th said.

Sha'th, also "minister" for planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian self-rule authority, said the settlements would be "the main topic" for discussion in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday.

The Israeli government has pledged to discuss the Efrat settlement on Monday including the legality of the project.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has warned the Palestinians face a "long and tough" fight over the settlements but urged the al-Khidr villagers who say they own the land where building work has started to continue the battle.

The Palestinian Authority has also said it will urge the UN Security Council to hold an emergency debate on the issue.

Under the September 1993 Declaration of Principles, the Israeli army is due to redeploy away from Palestinian towns on the West Bank ahead of elections to a council to run self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Our position has remained the same. We would accept a staged withdrawal on condition that it is part of timetable for a redeployment from all Palestinian towns and villages," Sha'th said. But he said Tuesday's meeting would not address the issue of a redeployment as 'Arafat

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and Peres have decided it should be negotiated at the highest level and in secrecy.

The Palestinians are also counting on Egyptian support in the Israel-PLO liaison committee meeting on Tuesday.

Sha'th and Peres are due to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa before the talks to organise another "three-way meeting after the Israeli-Palestinian talks," Sha'th said.

The liaison committee will also tackle issues remaining from the May 4 autonomy accord including the 6,000 Palestinians still held in Israeli jails, free trade in Gaza and Jericho and "customs obstacles put up by Israel in promoting trade with Egypt and Jordan."

'Arafat Calls Arab League Meeting

NC0101154395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has announced that he conveyed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today a message from Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, calling for an urgent meeting of the Arab League at the level of permanent delegates to discuss the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the suggested date for the urgent meeting is Thursday [5 January].

PA Hopes for 'Wise' Israeli Decision

JN0201174095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA official in charge of the economy and trade portfolios, by Rajih Qaddur on 2 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] Good evening Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala, official in charge of the economy and trade at the Palestinian Authority [PA].

[Quray'] Good evening.

[Qaddur] Abu-'Ala', it seems the disputed area between Efrat and al-Khadir villages has created a new situation. Hasn't it?

[Quray'] First of all, I reject the word disputed because this is a Palestinian area. We agreed to postpone the settlements issue until the final status negotiations, not on the basis that they are disputed areas, but because this is a controversial issue which we postponed until the final status negotiations. We do not see any solution other than removing the settlements. What is going on now, in particular, is undoubtedly an extremely glaring and aggressive act after we signed peace and the Declaration of Principles.

[Qaddur] Does this mean the PA may suspend negotiations with Israel?

[Quray'] I hope we will not reach that point. I hope the Israeli Government, which has not yet made a decision and which, as I learned, is still in session, will adopt a wise decision in these delicate and decisive circumstances.

[Qaddur] A short while ago, the prime minister declared from the Knesset podium that the government will not agree that construction work continue on the hill near Efrat and al-Khadir villages. Will this ease situation, even if it is temporary?

[Quray'] As I said, I hope a wise decision will be made in these delicate and decisive circumstances. We are engaged in a peace process. The Palestine question is the core of the entire problem. I hope the Israelis will not view matters as having been settled by having reached an agreement with Jordan and Egypt and by seeking an agreement with Syria and Lebanon. The Palestine question will remain the root of the problem and the key to the peace process. Any attempt to undermine the credibility of the PA, I believe, will not serve the peace process. Settlement activity is the biggest blow to the credibility of the PA. This is because it signed an agreement which is supposed to halt, not legalize, the settlement process.

[Qaddur] Is there a PA meeting on the agenda?

[Quray'] As you know, the PA is in constant session to discuss this extremely serious matter.

[Qaddur] Ahmad Quray', thank you very much.

[Quray'] You are welcome, brother Rajih. Thank you.

PA Official Comments on Compromise

TA0201194695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian leadership is satisfied [as heard] with the compromise reached in al-Khidr but warned about the continuation of settlement activity:

[Begin Furayh Abu-Middayn, Palestinian Authority (PA) justice minister recording, in English] The owners of the land want to struggle, but actually all the state land in the West Bank and Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people, not to Israel. This is not a legal question, this is a political question. I am sure we will find very dangerous to continue the peace process of Israel. We need more, this is not enough decision from the cabinet. [end recording]

'Urayqat on Israel's Decision on Efrat

JN0201195495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority has described as not enough Israel's decision to stop building

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a new quarter in the Jewish settlement of Efrat near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Palestinian minister of local government, has said that suspending construction works on a hill only to resume it on another hill does not change a thing.

'Urayqat said that Rabin cannot solve problems by moving bulldozers from one site to another and that he must choose between settlers or peace. He said the policy of extensive settlement really threatens the peace process, asserting the need to put a final end to settlement activity.

He added that the PLO will continue to object to the Israeli policy, especially during the meeting between chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th with the Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on peres in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday.

'Urayqat said: We will go to Cairo tomorrow along with maps that show the violations of the pledge made by Rabin two years ago to freeze the building of settlements.

PA, Groups React to Efrat Decision

TA0301090495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet's decision on construction work at the settlement of Efrat was met with disapproval and disappointment on the part of Palestinian Authority [PA] officials. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night to explain the cabinet's decision, but the phone call did nothing to improve the mood of the PA officials. Here is what Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who is in charge of the PA's finance portfolio and one of the architects of the Oslo agreement, had to say:

[Being Abu-'Ala' recording, in English] We are disappointed that this decision [as heard] has not courageously taken the decision to stop the expansion of settlements, but they take another place and postponed the place where the conflict started in. We are not looking only on al-Khidr and Bethlehem. We are looking about all the places where there is an extension in the settlements. [end recording]

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] also condemned the cabinet's decision and called on the PA to stop the talks with Israel. Here are some remarks by 'Imad al-Faluji, one of the Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Al-Faluji said: We always said that the settlements are a time bomb that will cause the situation in the area to explode. That is why we called for the dismantlement of all the settlements in the occupied territories. The Israeli Government must dismantle the settlements if it is serious about the peace process and seeks to calm down the area.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, leader of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, said the Israeli Government's decision is a clear violation of human rights. Rabin, al-Shami said, is trying to have his cake and eat it, too, and does not want to resolve the problem of the settlements.

'Spokesman' on Israeli Attack on Border Positions

JN0301055095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Statment by the Palestinian National Security Forces official spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 2240 [2040 GMT] yesterday, Israeli forces, supported by vehicles, advanced toward two positions of our border forces. After showering these positions with heavy fire, they used flare shells. The Israeli forces then stormed the two positions. Four heroes were martyred and a number of our men were wounded in their brave defense of their land and positions. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces continued their heavy shelling in all directions.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, and the commanders of the second sector and the Border Forces moved to both positions. A field meeting was immediately held with the Israeli side.

The Palestinian side asked the Israelis to conduct expeditious investigation and to announce the reason and motives of this aggression against our positions and brave forces.

Three Palestinians were martyred yesterday by the Israeli occupation soldiers. South of Bethlehem, two citizens were martyred and another citizen was wounded. Another citizen was also martyred near Hebron and 10 others were wounded in confrontations which erupted after the incident.

Four Policemen, 2 'Terrorists' Dead in Shoot-Outs

TA0301060195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two very, very serious shoot-outs took place yesterday. The first began about 9 o'clock last night [1900 GMT]. That happened just a little north of Bayt Sahur, beside Bethlehem. According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman, it was a routine Israeli patrol which spotted a vehicle that raised their suspicions. They called or signaled to the vehicle to stop, and then shots were fired at the patrol from inside the vehicle. The soldiers fired back. Two men in the vehicle, an Audi car, were both killed. A search of the car turned up a Kalashnikov automatic rifle, an M-16, magazines, bullets, a Koran, and, interestingly. Kippot, the skullcaps worn by religious Jews, together with a map of Jerusalem and yellow Israeli license plates for the car, in addition to

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the blue local plates which were on the car at the time of the shooting. The two men were known to be Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. They had been arrested in the past for various offenses, and the authorities believe that, in fact, the two men were planning to carry out a major attack somewhere in Jerusalem and were probably on their way to do that when they were spotted by the patrol and killed.

The other incident, no less serious and in many ways much more serious, happened beside the Erez crossing point at the northern entrance to the Gaza Strip. That was at about 10:30 [2030 GMT] last night. An Israeli patrol was about to set off on the Israeli side at about 10:30 last night on a routine patrol. Shots were fired at them from inside Palestinian territory, apparently from a location quite close to a building in a position manned by Palestinian police inside the Gaza Strip. The soldiers began firing back; other soldiers came up, and they, too, were fired at. According to Israeli officers, the soldiers began to charge toward the direction where the shots were coming from, calling out as they went for the people who were firing at them to stop shooting and to give themselves up. The Israelis say that, in fact, subsequently, one man did come to surrender towards the Israelis, and he turned out to be a Palestinian policeman, but other shots were fired from a building right next to him, and the soldiers had no choice but to continue firing back. They charged toward the building as the shooting continued; they threw a grenade, and, in all, something like 20 minutes elapsed from the beginning of the incident until the shooting finally stopped.

Israeli officers and Palestinian senior officers came to the spot. They included the head of Southern Command, Major General Sha'ul Mofaz; the head of the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip, General Nasr Yusuf; and Brigadier Yom-Tov Sami', who heads the joint Israeli-Palestinian security liaison committee. Officers on each side have been blaming each other for starting the shooting. REUTER quotes Brig. Sa'it al-'Ajiz, the commander of Palestinian police at the northern end of the Gaza Strip, saying the shooting was quite unprovoked. He claims that the Palestinian policemen were eating a meal inside a building when the Israeli soldiers burst in, demanded that they give up their weapons, and then started shooting. Of course, this is completely denied by the Israelis.

In all events, a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee has been set up to look into the incident. They are going to start their investigation this morning. The final result is that four Palestinian policemen are dead. The policeman who gave himself up has been handed back to the Israelis [as heard], and the incident is obviously going to cause some major waves in relations and in discussions between the Israelis and Palestinians, probably beginning with the talks in Cairo this morning.

'Sources' Say Dead Policemen Came From Libya

TA0301091195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinian policemen killed in yesterday's clash were not residents of the Gaza Strip but Palestinians who came from Libya. The sources asserted that another policeman was slightly wounded in the incident, and he briefed Yasir 'Arafat on the affair yesterday.

Attack 'Evidence' of Attempts to Abort Peace

JN0301091495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0628 GMT 3 Jan 95

[Unattributed talk]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli attack on two positions of our Palestinian Security Forces near Erez crossing: This aggressive attack resulted in the martyrdom of four heroic policemen and in the wounding of others in their glorious defense of the Palestinian territory. Earlier, three Palestinians were martyred by occupation bullets.

Nothing justifies these aggressions, particularly that against the positions of the Palestinian Security Forces, unless the intent is to underscore Israel's need to torpedo the process of peace which appeared on the horizon of this territory after a series of bloody wars.

This Israeli aggression against the position of the Palestinian National Security Forces coincided with the settlement onslaught against many areas in this Palestinian territory which belong to the sons of our people in the villages of this homeland which we will redeem by our souls and blood regardless of the size of sacrifices.

Every day Israel reiterates that its talks about peace are completely different from the its forces' practices on the ground. This is irrefutable evidence of the real intentions of Israel's leaders vis-a-vis the course of the Palestinian-Israeli talks and of their attempts to abort the peace process in the entire Middle East, not only in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Subayh for Palestine-Israel-Jordan Confederation

NC0201145995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian permanent delegate to the Arab League and the Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary, has called for the establishment of a tripartite confederation among Palestine, Jordan, and Israel. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said that without such a confederation the region would remain in a state of instability with lack of confidence among the three parties. He pointed out that a tripartite confederation would restore the fabric and confidence to the

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Palestinian people, and they would enjoy free dealing and have no fears of being swallowed up or dominated.

Subayh noted that the Palestinian leadership previously passed a decision approving the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, but we must broach this issue with Jordan after solving the Palestinian-Israeli problems. He said that Jordan has not yet made a decision on this confederation, while Israel is totally opposed to this step because it wants a purely ethnic state, which goes against history. He said that the existence of a state based on coercion and the threat of arms and nuclear weapons and ethnic purity would have no future in the Middle East. He noted that the ideal solution would be a tripartite confederation. [passage omitted]

Subayh said that the economic situation inside Palestinian territory is deteriorating and reflects negatively on the Palestinian people. He noted that the Palestinian Authority (PA] has only received $200 million, which was spent on police salaries and other administrative affairs. He said we need a great amount of money to establish infrastructure projects and create job opportunities for the Palestinians.

Subayh said that we consider Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] a patriotic and struggling group, though we differ with it on methods and actions, particularly inside PA territory, where there should be no arms except for legal and licensed ones, namely, the Palestinian police's arms. He noted that the PA welcomes any national opposition.

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Algeria

Zeroual Speaks on Security, Elections

LD3012111994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1903 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, as we promised you, here is the speech By President Liamine Zeroual, which he delivered this afternoon to the local officials and citizens of the province of Illizi.

[Begin Zeroual recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, I express to you once again my pleasure to be present among you. My visit comes within the framework of a series of visits which I have decided to pay to some regions of our homeland. The purpose of these visits is to become familiar with the situation in these regions and to get in touch directly with the citizens. [passage omitted]

You undoubtedly know that our country needs to solve three main problems: First, to restore security in our country; second, to develop the national economy and encourage the social situation; and third, to return to the elections. In fact, the transitional period was designed to reach these aims.

The transitional period first of all aims at establishing a strong state which will be at the service of the Algerian people alone, and in which national solidarity and social justice are strengthened. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, you are aware that the problems we are suffering from today are due to the deviations which have appeared in the running of our country, such as putting private interests before national interests, the emergence of nepotism, and the squandering of state funds, which have drained the energy of our country, and which have made the people, especially the youth, lose hope.

Brothers and sisters, that time has passed. Today we must go hand in hand, we must stand as one, and put an end to this condition by returning to our original national values and the values of the glorious November revolution. The rehabilitation which we desire must be comprehensive, deep, and enjoy the participation of all the groups that value Algeria; and it must be made within the framework of a genuine departure from all the illnesses from which our society suffers. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, mobilizing the people for the country's recovery from the crisis which we suffer requires that we hold a direct dialogue with the people and inform them of the facts, however bitter they may be. This is what I have tried to do through all my speeches on many occasions. This is also what the government is doing through regular visits by all its members, at the forefront of whom is the prime minister.

We have tried and we are still trying to promote this dialogue with the political class, on condition that the political class respects the framework of dialogue represented by the Constitution, the rejection of violence, and avoidance of narrow partisan interests. This has been my line since I took over the presidency of the state. I will always work with faith, honesty, and conviction to follow this line.

No doubt you have closely followed all the efforts which we have made within this framework since I was appointed head of the Ministry of National Defense. Since the beginning, the dialogue we called for has been for the benefit of the people and is a serious dialogue which brings together all the sons of the nation, without exclusion, within the framework of the constants stipulated by the Constitution, and which do not accept any bargaining with any side. Our intention since the beginning has been true and has always aimed at serving the entire Algerian nation. On this basis, at the same time our stance has been against exclusion and against extremism, irrespective of its source. We have always believed in our ability to resolve the crisis from which our country is suffering, with the contribution of all, especially the political class, whom we have asked to shoulder its historic responsibilities vis-a-vis its homeland, and to participate with us in finding a solution.

We even opened the door for the political class in order that it may participate in the management of the transitional phase. We still hold the belief that together we can reach the solution which our people expect, if some parties abandon their narrow partisan attitudes and their internal as well as external maneuvering which works against the country's interest, but fails to shake our determination and resolve to continue our work for people's sake, not with the aim of staying in power. With regard to the stance of the dissolved Party [FIS], we expected the party officials with whom we adopted major measures and procedures, to show an attitude which stems first and foremost from the sublime interest of the homeland, and not to remain indifferent to the terrorism and violence which are daily killing citizens from all factions. [passage omitted]

In this framework, we must warn our people against the hidden maneuvers of some quarters, which try to impede all the efforts we make to find a solution, because these quarters fear for their personal interests.

Brothers and sisters, I stress that the solution to the crisis being felt by our country is in our country itself, and that the solution must come from Algerians. On this basis, and in order to escape from this vicious cycle, we have decided, as you know, to hold presidential elections before the end of 1995. These elections will take place, God willing, on schedule, and are what the people expect as the fruits of national dialogue. They will undoubtedly be the first step toward building our country on strong democratic foundations, and the Algerian people will be the mainstay of these foundations.

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Brothers and sisters, I want you to be mobilized in order to express your will and your choice free from all pressures. For its part, the state will continue its efforts with the utmost commitment and keenness through its organs and institutions, in order to provide the necessary conditions for this free choice, which is vital to the future of our country. This is a commitment on my part in my capacity as head of state and national defense minister.

The most important condition that we must provide is the restoration of security and an to end the acts of violence and terrorism. The state is resolved and determined to put an end to this violence by all available means, in order to stop this bloody hemorrhage which is touching all sections of society without distinction, as well as the people's properties, for which they have paid dearly.

All these subversive activities have no justification. Furthermore, our true Islamic faith prohibits the killing of another person without right.

As I have said previously to those who have chosen violence as the means for realizing their aims: Violence is not a means of political action, nor is it a path which leads to power. Therefore, I would like to repeat that no power can ever impose its will on the people by way of violence and terrorism. The state is determined to combat this phenomenon until it is able to finally get rid of it. On the other hand, we are still determined to put an end to bloodshed, as this blood is Algerian, the blood of our sons and daughters. [passage omitted]

Here before you, we would like to reiterate that the state has fully assumed its responsibilities, and expressed its true intention in this regard at the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers on 25 December, by adopting legal measures which aim at opening the door of repentance for those who have gone astray. As a matter of fact, these measures stem from our total commitment to uniting all Algerians and returning to a normal life under the auspices of solidarity in order to save and build Algeria.

Brothers and sisters, no doubt you already appreciate the fact that these important measures are intended to bolster the sovereignty of the law in which we all believe, and which works for the entrenchment of true democracy in our country under the umbrella of respecting our national values, and not a democracy built on principles that are alien to the Algerian people. We are convinced that justice is the base of power, that no national project can succeed, and that no citizen can feel secure and assured while the law is not respected by all. [passage omitted]

In the legal sphere, I have previously asked the Government to take the necessary measures to restore the status and role of the Audit Council in order to legally monitor the use of public funds, which must be done with total transparency and strict respect for the laws of the state. With regard to respecting constitutional principles, I would like to reaffirm to you that the state fully respects party pluralism and underwrites its practice as a service to democracy and the homeland. [passage omitted]

We regard the press as a component complementing political pluralism, and therefore the press is called upon to contribute to the consolidation of the democratic process. As a matter of fact, despite the difficulties encountered by our national press and all the media because of the violence being experienced in our country, and the costly price which journalists have paid, the media is still carrying out its task very bravely. For its part, the state will not hesitate to provide the necessary support for the media. [passage omitted] I have issued instructions to the entire state apparatus to open up to the national media and work toward the development of an effective and objective media, especially in this difficult stage. This will enable our people to be informed of the challenges which our country has to confront, and of the efforts being made in this regard. This is why we expect our press to be objective, to distance itself from misrepresentation and falsification of the facts, and to reject anything which may affect the unity of the homeland and sow chaos and disunity in the hearts of the people.

Our attitude stems from our belief in the great role the national media plays in building a new national order. The media should be responsibile for enlightening public opinion with frankness and objectivity. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, on many previous occasions I have said that national construction is not limited to one sphere but requires action in many spheres. Both the political and security sphere which we spoke about earlier are as important as the economic reforms, which are regarded as essential under the cicrumstances being experienced by our country. This is so that we can meet the requirements of the people and open the door to all initiatives. In particular, we noticed that the previous method of managing our debts did not prevent the arrest of our country's economic development.

In 1994 we should have repaid approximately $9 billion. This amount equals almost all the state revenues achieved from its exports. We stress today that after the rescheduling of our foreign debt, our national economy has started to witness a revival and there are no big financial problems confronting it. [passage omitted]

We must work toward consolidating the small- and medium-size institutions, especially in the production and distribution spheres, and to enable them to acquire hard currency, because these institutions constitute a significant base for investment and employment. In this context the local authorities must encourage investors through the exploitation of investment opportunities available to them.

With regard to social matters, the state will continue to provide assistance, and will take full responsibility in this respect, especially in relation to the deprived classes.

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While we are working to solve the problem of unemployment, we will guarantee a minimum income for the unemployed, either through the existing social network or through the unemployment grant fund. In addition, here the local authorities have a special responsibility. They must ensure the success of the new social network which we have started to implement, and which will benefit 840,000 persons without income, including more than 500,000 family men.

Let everbody understand that if we are to succeed, we should restore prestige first and foremost to the value of work, effort, and efficiency, and that rewards should be based on this alone. Brothers and sisters, the success of the economic reforms and the building of the state in general cannot be carried out unless the local communes—the wilaya and the municipality—play their roles fully in this regard. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, I would like to appeal once again for administrative reforms to be carried out in all establishments, for the bolstering of the local communes by introducing efficient cadres and by including the youth, giving them an opportunity to shoulder responsibility.

Brothers and sisters, the building of the State depends fundamentally upon our youth. Our youth should know that the reforms which are being carried out aim at giving their generation, the majority of our population, an opportunity to play its part in filling the cadres and running the affairs of the country. [passage omitted]

Let it be known that in 1994 the state allocated approximately 28 percent of its budget toward the sectors entrusted with the youth. The coming years, God willing, will see additional efforts aimed at improving the educational and vocational training network, and at ensuring suitable conditions for the gradual implementation of the necessary reforms, after the completion of studies in which all the bodies concerned with this important sector for the future of our sons will participate. [passage omitted]

The state will be making efforts toward integrating the youth socially and economically, by organizing them and making work available for them. In addition to the great number of youth societies which are active at local and national levels, the state is determined to make every effort to deal with the problems of youth employment. In this connection, the local communes are called upon to look at whatever can be offered to the youth through local initiatives in all sectors in a tangible form.

Brothers and sisters, as for the southern areas, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our interest in this region which occupies a special place in our preoccuoations. This area, which includes the vast south of our country, is experiencing many problems in the security, economic, and social spheres, as well as the sphere of administrative management, primarily because of a delayed development process in our country during a specific period. With regard to security, this area of the homeland is witnessing a problem of illegal movement by persons and goods across the border.

This requires that we take more action in order to reassure the inhabitants of these areas, by making available all the means for controlling our borders and by combating smuggling through cooperation with neighboring fraternal and friendly states. [passage omitted]

I would like especially to draw the attention of hydocarbon companies, whose activities have been suspended, to the national resources existing in the south. They should diversify into the desert environment in order to participate in local development, whether by making employment opportunities available or by other economic efforts. This is the economic integration which is regarded as the basis for any serious development process.

My reference to integration while I am in a border wilaya motivates me to talk about the Maghreban integration in which Algeria participates out of its belief and resolve. In this connection, my recent visit to the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah allowed me and my Libyan counterpart [al-Qadhdhafi] to give instructions which bolster cooperation and exchange between our two countries. No doubt this exchange and cooperation will find its normal path via the Illizi wilaya. This will have benefits for the local population. Here we would like to call on our merchants to encourage, and officials to work for the border development, in accordance with the decisions we made together with our Libyan brothers.

Brothers and sisters, after having reviewed before you the situation of the country, and after having spoken about the problems of the southern area and the prospects of developing it, I would like to go back a little to the recent decision concerning the organization of free and democratic presidential elections before the end of 1995. This decision has been studied very carefully and it aims in the first place at breaking the political darkness that has shrouded our country for some years. The people became hostage to this clampdown and the political games played by some parties which were born from and are still living on the crisis. Some forgot that the people are the ones who are in actual fact paying the cost of this darkness, while they are the masters who determine their own destiny and have every right to spell out their own future and put an end to the maneuvering and oneupmanship being carried out in their name.

The Algerian people should know that attempts to keep them having the final decisive word will not stop, and that these attempts will strongly increase, either by way of blind violence or by resorting to influence from abroad, and this is what we are noticing now. But the state is determined to forcefully confront all these manoeuvers and will never permit foreign interference in its affairs. The people should also stand in one line in order to face this challenge which concerns their destiny, dignity, and freedom of choice. Anyone who wishes to

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take over power should do so by legitimate means—through the people. The opportunity is available thanks to the scheduled elections.

The political class who actually have good intentions should refer back to my statement of 29 October 1994, which I made before the parties, to realize that the door of dialogue is still open, while at the same time remembering that dialogue has a framework and national constants which are not for discussion. Dialogue now has a precise and inevitable aim: the organization of presidential election.

Brothers and sisters, I would like to thank you once more for the warm welcome and reception, for having listened to me, and for the frankness which has characterized your remarks. As I said to you a little while back, it is true that our country is passing through a very difficult phase, but I am sure it will emrge victorious, and will remain standing on its own feet and steadfast, thanks to its brave people. [end recording]

Radio Sees 'Serious Crack' in Leadership

LD0201144895 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front in Algeria, said in an interview published in the daily AUJOURD'HUI in Paris that in his view Algeria's agony might jeopardize the security of the Maghreb and the Mediterranean. One week after the hostage taking, what are its repercussions? Kamel Djaider reports:

[Djaider] [passage omitted] For the first time the Algerian authorities have shown a serious crack. Liamine Zeroual, the general who normally strives to give a coherent and homogeneous image of the regime, has denounced secret maneuvers by some sides which, according to him, have tried to get in the way of efforts to find a solution to the Algerian crisis. The Algerian leader, who has not given any details of these so-called sides or of the nature of these secret maneuvers, only said that they are groups which fear they would lose their own interests. This is the first hint of this kind about an opposition which is active within the Algerian authorities. Besides, a parallel can be established with the statement you quoted earlier on, that of Mr. Ait Ahmed, in a Parisian newspaper, AUJOURD'HUI. Indeed the leader of the Socialist Forces Front does not rule out, I quote, a manipulation in the killing of the White Fathers and in the Airbus hijacking.

Bel Kassim: 'Islam Cannot Prevail Without a Battle'

AU0201145095 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 2 Jan 95 p 107

[Interview with Ahmed Bel Kassim, "member of the leading body of the 'Armed Islamic Group,'" by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "To Be or Not To Be"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bel Kassim is the nom de guerre of a member of the leading body of the "Armed Islamic Group." In order to escape the security authorities, he alternates between Paris, Malta, Khartoum, and Beirut.

[DER SPIEGEL] What was the point of the hijacking of a French passenger aircraft? Do such actions not give Islam a bad name all over the world?

[Bel Kassim] Occasionally, the Muslims, who in the past used to be oppressed by France and are now oppressed by a military junta that collaborates with Paris, are tempted to apparently crazy acts of desperation. However, blood is shed on all sides; for years no one has shown consideration for civilians in our country. The existence of our people is at stake.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even spokesmen of the Islamic Salvation Front condemned the plan as an "attack on Allah's religion."

[Bel Kassim] For long enough false friends have tried with tactical scruples to prevent us from becoming active. Of course, women, children, and old people are not the chosen targets of our fighters. We know the commands of humaneness. However, neither in World War II, nor in Vietnam, nor in the Gulf War did the colonial powers and imperialists observe their own moral appeals. Unfortunately, war is inhuman, and we are waging a war.

[DER SPIEGEL] With such atrocities you are isolating yourself politically. Even Iranian friends accuse you of providing grist to the mills of the Zionists.

[Bel Kassim] These slanderous statements to do not faze us. Even other Islamic countries do not know the conditions in our country: The Salvation Front has failed; it is torn by strife and, according to our information, it is willing to negotiate with the criminals in uniform. The Front envies us our growing popularity. It is not without reason that each week thousands of young people come to us, who feel betrayed because they are prevented from fighting.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not risk a fratricidal war in the camp of the Islamic parties?

[Bel Kassim] Such a war has been smoldering for more than a year. We are sick and tired of doing half-hearted things and of joining with allegedly like-minded people, who just want power and property and for whom Islam is only a banner to carry. Furthermore, whoever collaborates with the officers is a traitor. We have long since purged our own ranks.

[DER SPIEGEL] The murder of four priests in Tisi Usu, the center of Kabylia, which is inhabited by the Berber, is a declaration of war on the Berber—who are, after all, a considerable part in your homeland. Is Algeria now also to be involved in an ethnic conflict?

[Bel Kassim] We are not responsible for the execution of the priests. It was probably a warning to the Berber, who

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oppose the victory march of the Islamic activists. And any resistance to true Islam, which only we in Algeria represent, must be broken.

[DER SPIEGEL] And this without consideration for the consequences?

[Bel Kassim] A holy war causes casualties. There is no war without victims. In Algeria Islam cannot prevail without a battle. This logic is tough, but it leads us to success.

FIS: Fighting Against France 'Obligation'

LD3112131094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Army for the Salvation of Algeria, the military wing of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], has stressed that the fight against France is now a religious obligation.

The said group, in its bulletin called: al-Fath al-Mubin [The Brilliant Victory], refers to the hijacking of the French Airbus which revealed the cooperation between the French and Algerian officials, saying that now war has turned into a religious duty.

The Algerian Islamic Army added that the Algerian nation is now directly fighting France and all states aiding France.

Jailed FIS Leader Starts Hunger Strike

LD2912193094 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria an imprisoned leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has begun a new hunger strike: Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the FIS provisional executive bureau, is protesting against his detention without trial for more than two years now.

FFS President: France 'Must Modify Policy'

LD0201160095 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 0915 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview published on Monday [2 January] by the daily AUJOURD'HUI (national edition of LE PARISIEN), Hocine Ait Ahmed said France must modify its policy toward Algeria.

The president of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) said "the Algerian people have the impression that France is a party which supports the authorities."

The FFS president believes the only way out of the impasse is to associate "moderate Islamists with the political debate."

'Terrorists' Bodycount Reported

61 Killed 24-28 Dec

LD2912185894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced this evening that they killed 61 "terrorists" between 24 December and 28 December. These operations were carried out in various parts of the country: Tiaret, Tissemsilt, Setif, Mostaganem, Boumerdes, Blida, Jijel, and El Tarf. Many weapons were recovered during these operations, including automatic pistols, hunting rifles, and homemade grenades.

18 Killed 31 Dec

LD3112184294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced the elimination of 18 terrorists in different parts of the homeland.

Benhamouda Re-Elected as Union Head

LD3112014794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1934 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Only a short while ago the congress of the General Union of Algeria's Workers [UGTA] re-elected Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda to the post of the secretary-general of the union. The details of today's meetings with Khaled Yahia:

[Yahia] The fourth day of the UGTA's congress was crowned with the re-election of Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda to the post of secretary-general of the union. The congress also discussed the list of the 181 members of the executive bureau of UGTA's national secretariat. The congress also approved the election of the representatives of the UGTA in the provinces. [passage omitted]

Budget for 1995 Approved, Discussed

Zeroual Signs Budget Law

LD3112201894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual this evening at the People Palace signed the budget law for 1995. [passage omitted]

Reminder: the Transitional National Council last Monday adopted the draft budget law, and following this adoption, Mr. Benbitour, the finance minister, said that the budget law must be strictly carried out given the considerable financial balances to be achieved and the level of expected deficit. The gross budget for 1995 is 586.5 billion Algerian dinars from revenues against 734.9 billion Algerian dinars for expenditures, i.e., a deficit estimated at 148 billion Algerian dinars.

Finance Minister Comments

LD3112233694

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 31 December carried a live or recorded 12-minute interview with Algerian Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour.

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The interviewer first noted that the policy of liberalizing prices would lead to an increase in prices and asked the minister his point of view. The minister, wishing the viewers a happy new year, said that the relation between the budget and prices was not a direct one, apart from subsidizing the prices of some basic commodities. He said: "I can assure you that we will, in 1995, allocate 17 billion dinars to subsidizing prices. The prices of three foodstuffs will remain subsidized; these are milk, bread and semolina." Prices of other commodities would be freed and hence would depend on offer and demand, the minister said. He went on to say that over 10 billion dollars would be allocated to finance imports and that a better financing would be guaranteed to production sectors in order to achieve a stability in the prices.

Another journalist who specializes in economic affairs then asked the minister about the social, financial, and economic elements taken into consideration when drawing up the budget. The minister replied by saying that the budget was within the framework of a program for economic and fiscal reform which aims at achieving a quantitative and qualitative economic growth. He also said that unemployment and the shortage in housing services were two problems to be fought.

In response to a question on the new fiscal measures to be taken in 1995 and whether they indeed represent fiscal reform, the minister responded that fiscal and customs measures would not be changed greatly this year as they had been subjected to various changes in the past four years. But he noted some measures aimed at bolstering the economic stability plan; these include the decrease of the VAT from four percent to three percent and other measures aimed at bolstering economic and social development in provinces of southern Algeria in addition to series of other measures.

In a response to a question on how the deficit in the budget would be addressed, the minister replied that with the exception of the amounts allocated to the financial cleanup of enterprises, there would be an equality between the revenues and the expenditures in the 1995 budget. The minister noted that the amount to be allocated to the financial cleanup in the budget is 148 billion dinars which is the amount of the deficit in the budget.

The minister also said that Algeria was preparing for a new plan for the rescheduling its debts for a further period of three years and that Algeria has fulfilled all of its obligations towards the IMF. He noted that the rescheduling would reduce the debt service expenditure to five billion dollars in 1995.

Egypt

Mubarak Admits to Differences With U.S.

NC0101132795 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 1 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak admitted Sunday [1 January] that Egypt and key ally the United States had their differences although their relations were still good.

American reports in November accused Egypt of violating the international embargo imposed on Libya since 1992 and said that a close colleague of Mubarak was involved, provoking strong reaction in the press here.

"There are certain differences but that is usual between states and friends, and we are talking about them in a way that does not interfere with our sovereignty," Mubarak told the Al-Akhbar daily, stressing that relations with Washington were "good."

He blamed an unspecified "party" for the allegations that Egypt had supposedly busted sanctions imposed on Libya for its refusal to hand over suspects in the 1988 bombing of a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

"I don't want to talk about these campaigns nor of the party behind them," he said.

He also denied that Egypt had been sidelined because of the peace deals between Israel and the Palestinians and Jordan.

Forging Arab solidarity and reconciliation was Egypt's top priority. The fact that "all Arab countries have expressed a desire to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people will help a solution," he added.

Iraq has been isolated since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and a summit on Thursday between Mubarak, Saudi King Fahd and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad called on Baghdad to respect all UN resolutions.

Mubarak Holds Talks With Israeli Foreign Minister

NC0301082295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning.

Also present at the meeting were Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development; and Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid.

Musa Meets PA's Sha'th, Tunisian State Minister

NC0201214695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Minister met this evening with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation. Dr. Sha'th stated that this meeting was in preparation for the tripartite meeting that Mr. 'Amr Musa has called for with the Palestinian and Israeli delegations tomorrow over a working lunch, before the Palestinian and the

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Israeli delegations meet in the Higher Liaison Committee, which starts its one-day meetings tomorrow.

In another development, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Mr. Said Ben Mustapha, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in Cairo this evening on two-day visit. Mr. Said Ben Mustapha stated that all issues of mutual interest were discussed. He denied that Tunisia had objected to Egypt's joining the Arab Maghreb Union.

Sha'th Comments on Summit

NC0301082195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has described the recent Alexandria tripartite summit as a very important step to restore the unity of Arab ranks versus the obstacles that Israel places before the peace process.

In remarks following his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday, Sha'th said that the Alexandria summit showed that the peace process is an interlinked operation that requires numerous negotiating cards if it is to continue.

Reportage on Reaction to Alexandria Summit

Paper Praises Summit Outcome

NC3112083394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has stressed that the tripartite summit held in Alexandria among President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd 'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia came at the appropriate time before Arab differences became aggravated to a point that they cannot be contained, especially in view of the wide rift in Arab relations caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In a commentary in today's issue, the paper says the summit was held amid challenges facing the Arab world, primarily the ongoing peace process in the region now that every Arab party is acting in accordance with its own concepts without paying ample attention to the interests of the other parties.

AL-AHRAM says that what makes this situation even more serious is that there are Arab parties, such as Syria and Lebanon, which have not yet reached any agreement with Israel, noting that the Palestinian party is facing numerous problems in implementing the agreement with Israel. The paper says that the Arab summit was a positive national pan-Arab overture that represents the best example to every Arab meeting or regional comprehensive Arab gathering. It notes the final communique of the summit which outlined the main pillars of joint Arab action beginning with a fair and comprehensive peace process to promoting economic Arab cooperation and activating the Arab League role. The paper says that perhaps the summit is the remaining hope for organizing the Arab steps to achieve the most possible gains to the Arabs who are losing because of their disagreement rather than for any other reason.

Al-Sharif Views Importance of Summit

NC3112162494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif inspected television news studios today on the occasion of the New Year. He remarked that President Mubarak concluded this year with several important stances, noting that the recent Alexandria minisummit crowned the president's endeavors to clear away Arab differences.

He pointed out that the president succeeded in doing this at a time when some people believed that holding such a summit and bringing these leaders together was a difficult matter.

Al-Sharif said that the issues discussed by the tripartite summit represent a notable Arab development as the new year begins and will help remedy issues that had formerly become almost chronic problems. The minisummit, he pointed out, placed the nation's main concerns and policies on the proper track.

He noted that President Mubarak's presence at the minisummit was a decisive factor in its success and its ability to surmount many hurdles.

Al-Sharif also pointed out that President Mubarak's earlier meeting with his brother King Hassan II of Morocco also helped create a suitable climate for the summit to succeed.

Al-Sharif declared that another landmark event in 1994 was the UN International Conference on Population and Development which was held in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Further on al-Sharif Remarks

NC0101113795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak took an important step at the end of 1994. This step, which gives the hope that 1995 will be a year for clearing inter-Arab relations, constitutes his call to convene the tripartite summit in Alexandria attended by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi monarch and custodian of the two holy mosques, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In an interview with the television program "Good Morning Egypt" today, Minister al-Sharif expressed his belief that the results of this summit are evidence that three important countries in the region agree over

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forming a nucleus for economic and political Arab activity. They also assert an Arab existence under the shadow of massive international and regional changes during which the Arab nation needs to have a basic minimum comprehensive view for coordination during the coming year because this is the beginning of a year that will see peace.

He said that peace has been established. There is now an attempt at making the peace train get to the other parties to establish a just and permanent peace. This is what Egypt is aspiring to through its extensive actions in the regional and international arena. He noted that the activities of Egypt and its leader President Mubarak tackle all the various issues. [passage omitted]

Paper: Summit Allows 'Strategic' Balance

NC0201082495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that the recent summit between the leaders of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia opens the road for glorious Arab victories. The summit brings to the Arab mind memories of the most glorious victories in modern Arab history, namely the October triumphs in the 70's and the abortion of the Baghdad Pact in the 50's.

In an editorial headlined "The Summit of Balance and Harmony," appearing in today's issue, the paper says that the Fahd-al-Asad-Mubarak summit in Alexandria opens the door for an Arab victory in the battle of today and tomorrow, a battle for arranging the Middle East situation in a framework of peaceful relations among all states of the region. This arrangement, the paper says, will ensure strategic superiority for the concerned party [not further specified]. The minimum Arab requirement for arranging the Middle East situation after the establishment of peace is achieving a strategic balance and preserving the Arab distinct character in the Middle East's geographic and political structure.

AL-AHRAM adds: Some unilateral, indeed uncontrolled, Arab moves have risked the loss of this minimum requirement. If these moves are added to the state of Arab fragmentation caused by the crisis of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait—a fragmentation that led to Iraq's departure from the Arab side of the Middle East strategic equation—we realize that the Arab nation needs to harmonize its moves at this extremely delicate transitional period.

The paper concludes: Fortunately, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia have met their responsibilities. They have understood what they should do and have assumed this role. Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are the natural candidates for this role.

Sidqi Affirms Summit Statement

NC0301105095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the statement issued by the tripartite summit, recently held in Alexandria, clearly called for peace in the Middle East.

In statements to the Israeli journalists accompanying Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the prime minister said that Egypt's role in the Arab world is historic and enduring and cannot be changed by anything. He added that Egypt has a longstanding Arab role, which will never be at the expense of relations with Israel.

Asked to comment on the Israeli impression that Egypt is pursuing an anti-Israeli policy in the peace process, Dr. Sidqi said that nobody can say this. Everyone knows the Egyptian policy toward Israel, which is reflected in our efforts to establish peace in the entire region.

Report on Interests in Joining Three-Way Forum

TA0201162895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt has indicated an interest in participating in the three-way forum with Israel and the Palestinians.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry say they interpret this as a sign of Cairo's desire to balance out the mini-summit held last week in Alexandria between the leaders of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Writer Criticizes Rabin's Accusations

NC0301101095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks accusing Egypt of adopting extremist stances.

Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar writes an editorial in the paper today headlined: "Excuse Me, Mr. Rabin." The writer says: Do the just and comprehensive peace and the efforts to stabilize the Middle East region fall within the framework of extremism? And is the rejection of discrimination and the double-standard attitude when dealing with the nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons in the region considered extremism? Duwaydar stresses that if this is true from the perspective of some people, what could we call those who place obstacles in the way of peace and those who reject the land for peace principle that is approved by the international community?

Jalal Duwaydar asks how those who reverse facts can justify their accusation that Egypt is extremist just because it said that the signing of the agreement for the nonproliferation of mass destruction and nuclear weapons is contingent on Israel signing this international agreement. He asks: Does Rabin, who accuses Egypt of adopting extremist stances, want Egypt to accept the fait accompli and approve of Israel possessing nuclear weapons while other countries are banned from owning such weapons in the region?

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The chief editor emphasizes that Egypt, by virtue of its history and capabilities, is qualified to say no to any action or behavior that might harm Egyptian and Arab rights and pan-Arab security. The writer points out that President Husni Mubarak has often declared that Egypt will not sign any agreement that would jeopardize its national security. This step, the writer says, enjoys the support and backing of the Egyptian people and all the Arab forces.

Duwaydar notes that if Egypt's refusal to sign the agreement harms Israel, it must sign the agreement first to show good intentions and to reiterate its real desire for peace. The writer maintains that Egypt has firm principles and it is making sincere efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace. Egypt, prompted by its free will and concern for safeguarding Egyptian national security and legitimate rights, rejects Rabin's baseless accusations.

Jordanian Envoy Summoned Over 'Media Criticisms'

JN0101211595 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned Jordan's Ambassador in Cairo Nayif al-Qadi and requested an explanation for the media campaign launched by Jordanian media against Egypt. A date has been fixed for the Jordanian ambassador to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who will deliver to him an official Egyptian protest against these media criticisms which will affect Egyptian-Jordanian relations and freeze some joint economic projects between the two countries.

Diplomatic sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry told AL-YAWM about the possibility of postponing the meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Committee scheduled to resume in January after the committee's activities were frozen for several years.

Detained Labor Official Receives 'Good Treatment'

NC3012175694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—The Egyptian Interior Ministry has stated that 'Adil Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party and writer for the newspaper AL-SHA'B, is receiving good treatment. 'Adil Husayn is currently being held in detention for 15 days by the order of the public prosecutor.

A statement issued by the ministry today said that in response to a request from the doyen of the press association, the ministry allowed his wife to visit him and to provide him with all his needs of clothes, blankets, medicine, and books. The ministry also allowed the wife of AL-SHA'B's Chief Editor Majdi Husayn to visit him.

The Interior Ministry's statement said that the detention of journalist 'Adil Husayn should not be used as an excuse by some people to incite, exaggerate, and practice mental terrorism. The statement noted that the security authorities are acting within the framework of the law, democracy, and respect for human rights. They have acted against 'Adil Husayn in accordance with correct legal procedures and arrested him on the basis of a warrant from the public prosecutor.

The statement affirmed that the Egyptian security authorities are capable of using legal measures to confront any acts aimed at stirring up sedition and destabilizing the country.

New 'Terrorist' Group, Arms, Documents Seized

NC3012185094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—The State Security Detective Agency has managed to seize a new terrorist organization calling itself the New al-Fatah [conquest] Vanguards, a responsible source at the Interior Ministry said in a statement issued today.

The source said that as part of the security authorities' continuous positive operations and in light of the State Security Detective Agency's success in achieving numerous successive and decisive blows, the agency's antiterrorist groups stormed the new terrorist organization's headquarters and hideouts in simultaneous and successive operations in the Cairo, al-Qalyubiyah, Alexandria, and al-Minufiyah governorates. The antiterrorist groups managed to arrest all leading 42 terrorists of the organization, the source added.

Information had been received that the runaway leaders of the al- Fatah Vanguards had resumed their hostile activity by instructing imprisoned leaders to reorganize its cells inside prisons and run its activities through clandestine members who are not under security scrutiny. They were also instructed to draft new personnel and link them to cluster cells to resume the organization's terrorist operations against important figures, leaders, security authorities, and vital state utilities and installations and to smuggle out the imprisoned leaders.

The State Security Detective Agency's plan included the formation of an observation network to monitor the movement of the organization members who had been instructed to communicate between the organization leaders inside and outside prisons. The plan also sought to make use of the results of technical and laboratory tests run on previous criminal incidents. As a result, the organizational structure of the group calling itself the New al-Fatah Vanguards was discovered.

The monitoring process revealed that fugitive leader Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali al-Sirri, who was sentenced to death in the attempted assassination of the prime minister, runs and funds the organization's activity from outside the

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prison and that he heads a group of the al-Jihad Organization's imprisoned leaders. [passage omitted]

The statement said the leadership group outside prison includes terrorist Muhammad Wadi' Ahmad Salam, who acts as a link between the leaders inside and outside prison, in addition to his primary role in planning and handling terrorist operations. It also includes Husam Hasan Isma'il Ahmad, who led one of the organization's groups and specialized in armed robbery of shops and attacking citizens.

It was learned that the group also includes suspects Ahmad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahim, a poultry trader; Muhammad Ibrahim Adam, a sports gymnasium owner; and terrorist Matrawi Faruq Zaki Muhammad, who enlists new personnel, in addition to his responsibility for the movement's organizational archives.

The statement adds that all 24 of the members of the leading group inside Egypt have been arrested. The following was found in their possession: weapons and ammunition, including 39 pieces of the 7.62-caliber automatic rifle; 5 automatic weapon magazines; a small-caliber machine-gun magazine; one 9-mm Hulwan rifle; a locally made pistol; some 1,022 bullets of varying calibers, including Grinov machine-gun shots; various auxiliary equipment, including a number of axes, a large amount of penknives, daggers, masks, gloves, and military suits; and a white Yamaha motorcycle.

Moreover, local and foreign banknotes and stolen gold jewelry were also found with the suspects. There were also documents explaining listening techniques, instructions for coded contacts, other documents on organizational security, topography, explosives manufacturing techniques, and instructions on remote controlled detonation. The apprehended documents included instructions made by the imprisoned leaders of the organization concerning a plan to attack a specific post and seize the weapons in it, on methods to raise the necessary finances for terrorist operations, instructions on how to make fake military suits for use in terrorist operations, and instructions on storming and guerrilla operations.

The apprehended documents also included audio cassettes explaining the methods of extremist organizations and the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood organization, a plan to break loose the jailed leaders, sketches of some vital state utilities and installations, and a typewriter on which all the organization's publications and researches were typed.

The Interior Ministry statement says that the apprehended suspects have made detailed confessions admitting the following acts: The assassination of a sentry guard and the seizure of his automatic weapon, the weapon that was found with terrorist Husam Hasan Isma'il Ahmad; the armed robbery of a jeweler's shop, Nur, in 'Ayn Shams, in which the shop owner, an employee, and another citizen were killed; and armed robberies and thefts against four citizens in Shubra al-Khaymah, Dar al-Salam, al-Zawyah al-Hamra', and Misr al-Qadimah. In the last set of crimes, the suspects seized a revolver, a shotgun, gold jewelry, and large sums of money by posing as police officers.

The suspects confessed to plotting to carry out an operation to break out their jailed leaders through hostile operations and a number of terrorist acts in vital areas to distract the security forces.

They confessed to seizing the weapon of a conscript who was guarding the 'Ayn Shams train intersection, plotting to rob a jeweler's shop in al-Zaytun area, and attempting a robbery against a citizen in Shubra al-Khaymah.

The Prosecution Office has been notified and officials have moved to the scene of the stormed hideouts to examine it and launch an investigation.

Prosecution Orders Remand of 33 'Terrorists'

NC3112205794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—The High State Security Prosecution today ordered that 33 terrorists from al- Qalubiyah be remanded in custody for 15 days pending investigations. They are members of the so-called Hesitation and Confirmation organization, a branch of the banned Islamic groups affiliated with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Interrogations of the suspects showed they used five mosques in Qalyub, Qalyub al-Mahattah, Shubra al-Khaymah, al-Hikr, and al-Qafas [last two names as received], in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate as hideouts.

Some of the suspects confessed they had accused their own families, some state officials, and some thinkers and writers of being blasphemous. The suspects were found in possession of leaflets and quantities of weapons and ammunition.

The suspects confessed they had planned to attack the Bank of Egypt branch in 'Izbat 'Uthman in Shubra al-Khaymah to harm the national economy and seize the weapons of the guards. Because there were many guards, the suspects were unable to carry out the attack.

The prosecution charged them with membership in an unlawful and unconstitutional group seeking to change the system of government by force and to change the country's Constitution, planning a number of crimes to shake national security and stability, and possessing firearms, explosives, and ammunition without a license.

Report on Policemen, Civilians Killed in Mallawi

NC0201122395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Eight policemen and three citizens were martyred this morning when unidentified gunmen fired at them in various areas in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate.

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An official security source at the Interior Ministry said that one policeman and one citizen were also injured in the incidents.

Further on Shooting

NC0201131095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—The security source explained that at 0730 Cairo time today unknown persons stopped a microbus that was travelling to al-Rawdah village in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate and ordered the passengers to step outside. They then opened fire indiscriminately on them. This resulted in the martyrdom of police First Sergeant 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Abd-al-Rahim from the Asyut Security Force, recruit Hajjaj 'Abd-al-Ghani Muhammad, and Warrant Officer Rabi' 'Abd-al-Hafiz Isma'il from the Transport and Communications Police.

Also martyred in the incident were Warrant Officer Hijazi 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ahmad from al-Minya Security Force; recruit 'Atif Rabi' Riyad from the Asyut Security Force; newspaper vendor Mahmud 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Jawad, who was a resident of al-Rawdah; and Majdi Shihatah Ahmad, a security guard with the Mallawi Bus Company.

Sergeant Isma'il Hakam Hasan, from the Asyut Security Force, was injured.

The source added that another group of unknown assailants opened fire on a pickup truck travelling towards al-Ashmunayn village in Mallawi. Police recruit Farghali 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Majid from al-Minya Security Force was martyred as a result. Also martyred was citizen 'Ali 'Abd-al-Mawjud Muhammad, an employee of Naway's preparatory school. Citizen Ashraf Muhammad Ahmad, a construction worker, was wounded.

The source said another group of unknown assailants attacked al-Minya Bus No. 2045 while it was passing through al-Rawdah village. Policeman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Abd-al-Hafiz from the al-Minya Police Force was martyred in this incident.

Islamic Group Claims Killing of 15 Policemen

NC0201222595 Paris AFP in English 2129 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 2 (AFP)—The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] claimed responsibility for a wave of deadly attacks on policemen in south Egypt Monday [2 January], saying it avenged the killings of its militants at the hands of police.

It also said 15 policemen died in the four separate attacks, rather than eight policemen and three civilians as reported by the Interior Ministry.

"At the start of 1995 and with the backing of our people in Mallawi, our mujahedin fighters carried out the 'law of talion' against 15 criminals of the security forces," al-Jama'ah said in a statement received by AFP.

Claiming responsibility for all attacks carried out in Cairo and southern Egypt since August, the group called on policemen and soldiers to join its ranks in the fight to overthrow the government.

The only extremist attack committed in Cairo since August was the stabbing of Nobel prize-winning author Najib Mahfuz. The group thus claimed responsibility for it for the first time.

Its statement was signed "the battalions of the martyr Tal'at Yasin Hammam," after the former chief of the al-Jama'ah military wing who was killed by police last April.

The group was "more determined than ever to pursue the Jihad," or Islamic holy war.

The Interior Ministry and police said the four attacks all took place near the town of Mallawi, about 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo, within the space of an hour.

They were among the bloodiest incidents since Moslem militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992. The campaign has cost 567 lives, according to an AFP count.

The gunmen fled and security forces launched a huge manhunt in the region, questioning hundreds of people and making dozens of arrests. All the attacks targeted vehicles with policemen on board.

Police said earlier that the attacks were believed to be the work of the al-Jama'ah seeking revenge for the killing of six militants last Wednesday in a police raid.

Monday's communique from al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah was its first in three months. In its last communique, in late September, the group claimed responsibility for an attack in the Red Sea town of al-Ghardaqah which claimed the lives of two German tourists and two Egyptians.

Reporters Without Frontiers Protest Detention

NC3012215994 Paris AFP English 2040 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 30 (AFP)—The organisation Reporters Without Frontiers protested Friday in a letter to Egypt's President Husni Mubarak against the detention of an Islamic fundamentalist journalist.

It called on the president "to use his influence to ensure" that the rights of 'Adil Husayn and Majdi Ahmad Husayn, a journalist and the editor respectively of AL-SHA'B newspaper, be respected.

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In a copy of the letter received by AFP, the organisation "protests vehemently" against the detention of 'Adil Husayn and the order for the editor to appear in court.

'Adil Husayn, who is 62, has been hospitalized since his detention for angina problems.

On Wednesday, prosecutors summoned the editor of the bi-weekly Islamic newspaper to appear in court over an article—written by 'Adil Husayn—which alleged there were US military bases in Egypt's Sinai desert.

'Adil Husayn was remanded in custody last Sunday for two weeks after being charged with "spreading fundamentalist ideas." The defence ministry said his article was "completely baseless."

He is also charged with bringing into Egypt leaflets from leaders of the outlawed militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in exile when he returned from a trip to Europe in October. He has denied the charges.

Sudan

Government Marks Independence Day With Parade

AB0201181195 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of Sudanese took to the streets Monday [2 January] to attend a military parade marking the 39th anniversary of the country's independence from Britain.

Units made up of male and female army members and the paramilitary People's Defence Force marched by as presidents 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen as well as Iraqi Parliament Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Libyan Prime Minister Abdel-Majid al-Kaoud and officials from Chad, Nigeria and Turkey looked on.

About 10,000 students who recently wound up military training in the People's Defence Force—a prerequisite for university studies—also marched.

Thousands of new members of Khartoum popular committees paid allegiance to al-Bashir during Monday's celebrations.

The Yemeni president held talks with al-Bashir before returning to Sanaa, SUNA news agency reported.

General al-Bashir on Sunday unveiled a plan to arm more than a million of his compatriots but also called on the opposition to return from exile and on southern rebels to make peace.

Vice President on Integration With Libya

EA0201195895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, has said that the mutual hostility, division, and imposed capitulation from which the Arab Nation is suffering make it imperative for Sudan and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to bring about the unification of the Arab ranks, resolve inter-Arab differences and resist the ferocious assault on the Muslim nation. That is what he said when he addressed the meeting of the joint higher ministerial authority for Sudanese-Libyan integration in Khartoum yesterday. Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr reviewed the progress of integration between the fraternal peoples of Sudan and Libya, stressing that integration had served to strengthen bilateral relations.

The committee's meeting was also addressed by Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, who congratulated the Sudanese people on their 39th anniversary of glorious independence. He confirmed his country's interest in implementing practically all the agreements and integration programs concluded with Sudan. Mr. al-Qa'ud reiterated his country's interest in adhering to the integration march to make it a nucleus for overall Arab unity. He said that the integration represented the declared option to exploit all the resources of the two countries toward achieving Arab unity and food security. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued on Visit by Iraqi Delegation

EA0201201195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese and Iraqi sides today issued a communique on their talks in Khartoum at the end of an official visit by an Iraqi parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Sa'id Mahdi Salih, the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, at the invitation of Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly.

The two sides agreed to enhance and develop bilateral relations, especially at the parliamentary level, and to derive benefit from the experiences and experiments of their respective countries in the legislative area. They also agreed to strengthen other relations and the frameworks of cooperation in all fields.

The two sides expressed their aspiration, in the interests of the two fraternal peoples, to extending relations, both horizontally and vertically, following the disappearance of the conditions prompting the imposition of the blockade against Iraq and of the pressures against Sudan.

The two sides participated in a joint meeting chaired by the speakers of the two parliaments, during which the Sudanese side briefed the Iraqi side on Sudan's achievements in the fields of self-reliant development, peace, indigenization of laws, and strengthening the Islamic (?orientation) in the country.

The Iraqi side expressed appreciation for these efforts, stressing its support for Sudan's unity, cultural identity, and resistance of all attempts to damage its national sovereignty.

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The Iraqi side briefed the Sudanese side on Iraq's efforts and achievements in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of what had been destroyed by the war, and on various aspects of development.

The Sudanese side praised Iraq's efforts and achievements, confirming its support for the unity of Iraq and condemning all attempts targeting Iraq's unity, freedom of action, and resources.

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Bahrain

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Visits

Pledges To Defend Security

NC3112071194 Paris AFP in English 2301 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Dec 30 (AFP)—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz pledged here Friday [30 December] that his country was committed to help defend neighbouring Bahrain's security.

"The security of the two countries is interdependent and can not be disassociated," he said at the end of a three-day visit, quoted by the Bahraini news agency GNA.

Earlier in December, hundreds of Shiite Moslem demonstrators clashed several times with police. The Bahraini opposition in exile said the protests were crushed with the help of Saudi Arabia.

According to the opposition, 15 people died in the clashes: 11 protesters and four policeman. But the government has said only one policeman was killed.

The violence which erupted after the arrest on December 5 of Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman was the worst since the former British protectorate gained its independence in 1971.

Departs Manama

JN3112064194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Dec (WAKH)—Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, interior minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Manama this evening at the end of an official three-day visit to Bahrain held at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

He was seen off at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander-in-chief of the Defense Forces; Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of communications; and a number of ranking officials and police and public security officers.

Before his departure, Prince Nayif told the Gulf News Agency that he had conveyed a message to his highness the amir of the State of Bahrain from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the strong bilateral relations in all fields.

Prince Nayif said: I had the opportunity to listen to the views of his highness the amir of Bahrain on all that deals with the fraternal relations, our Gulf region, the issues of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and those of our Arab and Islamic nations, and the whole world.

The Saudi interior minister described his visit to Bahrain as very beneficial and said he held talks with Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, and emphasized that their views on all issues were identical. He said: We emphasized that the security of the two countries is an indivisible whole. The security of Bahrain is the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the security of Bahrain.

Prince Nayif added: We and Bahrain—leadership, government, and people—have one stand, and I consider my visit to the State of Bahrain successful and beneficial.

Prince Nayif expressed pleasure at the results of this visit, and said: I pray God to grant success to me and my colleague the interior minister of the State of Bahrain in order to meet the expectations of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, so that we may carry out our duty toward our almighty creator, toward those who assigned us with this responsibility, and toward our citizens in the two countries, and to constructively contribute with our brothers in the GCC in realizing security and stability in our region.

Leading Shiite Cleric Reportedly Arrested

NC3112161494 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 31 (AFP)—A leading Shiite Moslem cleric has been arrested in Bahrain where clashes erupted earlier in December after a similar arrest reportedly leaving 15 people dead, diplomats said Saturday.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-'Akri was arrested a week ago for trying to hand a letter to Amir 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifa calling for the restoration of parliament, diplomats contacted from Cyprus said.

Hundreds of young Shiites protested in Manama and other Shiite areas for several days after the arrest of cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman on December 5.

Shaykh 'Ali was also arrested for handing a letter to the amir asking for parliament suspended in 1975 to be restored.

Diplomats said Shaykh Muhammad, who had called for dialogue during the troubles condemning the street protests and the use of violence, wanted to hand over a letter containing demands made by Bahraini ulemas, or theologists.

The ulemas have already called for "the restoration of parliamentary life as soon as possible, a radical end to the problems of unemployment, a wage increase and price controls."

They also demanded "freedom of the press and expression, the release of political detainees, and an end to the

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violation of citizens' rights, in particular the right to travel and return to the country."

The opposition in exile, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), said 15 people were killed in the protests which erupted after Shaykh 'Ali's arrest and more than 2,000 arrested.

Bahraini authorities said only one person, a policeman, had been killed.

Meanwhile in Sitrah, close to Manama, household rubbish has not been collected for more than two weeks to punish demonstrators who destroyed the authorities' vehicles during the unrest, witnesses said.

Foreign nationals in Manama have been urged to leave the country in letters from unidentified opposition groups angry at "the privileges they enjoy while the original inhabitants are without work."

Group Claims Pro-Democracy Movement Suppressed

LD3112203094 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 31 Dec (IRNA)—According to a press release faxed to IRNA from Bahrain Freedom Movement's bureau in London, Bahrain security forces have continued their crackdown on pro-democracy movement by adopting collective punishment policies.

The towns and villages of Sitra island, for example, have been subjected to a government ban on rubbish collection. The environmental hazards have mounted and the smell have become unbearable, the press release said.

When a group of residents volunteered to collect the refuse, the security forces reuponded by arresting them. On the other hand, these security forces have been implementing a major campaign of dawn raids, wrote the statement, adding that many women were taken hostages to force their father, husband or brother to give themselves up.

The authorities are now forcing clubs, (?associations) and business community to publish their news condemning the uprising and those refusing to obey found their names falsely mentioned on the front pages of official newspapers, claiming that they had denounced the uprising, the statement said.

Many community and religious leaders are being summoned daily at the al-Qala'a fort to be intimidated by investigating officer. A daily routine is carried out whereby Adel Flaifel and Khalid al- Ma'wda (two investigating officers) present the community leaders with a group of young men exhausted by torture to "confess" that they received orders from these community leaders for implementing "sabotage", the statement countinued.

While the Saudi interior minister was visiting the country to consolidate the tribal reprisal against pro-democracy activists, the office of the prime minister cancelled a proposed meeting with a delegation of leading community personalities that was supposed to have spelled out the demands of the uprising, said the statement, adding that the situation is liable to erupt any time as it is expected that the number of victims will increase in the coming days.

'Free Men' Opposition Group Enumerates Demands

MM0301165195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bahraini Opposition Demands Return of Exiled Members and Deportation of British Officer Responsible for Repression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Bahraini opposition confirmed yesterday the continuation of the campaign of arrests, despite the government's claim that conditions have returned to normal.

A statement issued by the "Bahrain's Free Men Movement" said that citizens Muhammad Sahwan and Ja'far Khalil al-Darazi were arrested at the end of last week within the framework of what it termed "a government campaign designed to terrorize oppositionists." The statement listed the demands of the Bahraini people's opposition as follows:

1. To release Shaykh 'Ali Salman immediately, and also to release all those arrested in the uprising.

2. To form a committee to investigate the matter as regards the opening of fire on demonstrators on 17 and 18 December—the incident which led to the killing of a number of citizens, three martyrs among whom have been identified.

3. To bring the country's Constitution in force and to set a date for the elections in order to elect a national assembly in accordance with the Constitution's stipulations.

4. To release political prisoners held before the uprising, some of whom have been in jail for over 13 years.

5. To allow exiled politicians to return to the country without any restrictions or conditions.

6. To revoke the ill-reputed state security law.

7. To deport British officer Ian Henderson and the foreign team operating with him, on the grounds that he is responsible for our people's suffering and the torture and imprisonment of their sons.

Bahraini Interior Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah accused "foreign" quarters—he did not

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name—of being behind the unrest in Bahrain, stressing that security forces are in control of the situation in the country.

Yemen

Official Sources Claim Saudi Attack on Border Post

JN0201132295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning, official Yemeni sources said that yesterday, at noon, armed Saudi patrols attacked positions inside Yemeni territory in the Sa'dah Governorate on the northern Yemeni border. The sources accused the hawks in the Saudi leadership of carrying out the aggression and other violations inside the Yemeni territory to prevent any rapprochement between the two neighborly countries—rapprochement that could produce a satisfactory solution to the border problem between them.

The official sources noted that those hawks supported the separatists in the recent Yemeni war and supplied them with money and weapons to abort Yemeni unity. The sources added that by carrying out such acts of aggression and fabricating border problems those hawks are working today to prevent any Yemeni-Saudi rapprochement that could achieve a breakthrough in relations between the two countries and resolve the border problem.

Semi-official reports said that clashes took place yesterday evening between the forces of both countries along the northern and northwestern Yemeni border in the al-Jawf and Hajjah Governorates. The reports said that a number of persons from both sides was either killed or wounded.

So far, no details have been issued on these incidents.

Salih Denies Reports

LD0301115595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 2 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Republic, said in a press statement carried by Sanaa radio today about relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni republic: "With regard to relations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia, we are making efforts to put an end to the estrangement and lukewarmness that has affected relations, and contacts have begun between us and the brothers in Saudi Arabia." He expressed hope that these contacts will continue in the interest of the two fraternal countries and in the interest of brothers in the Arab homeland.

For his part, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni parliament, has denied reports to the effect that Yemeni officials have accused the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of crossing a border area between the two countries. He said that what happened was a sort of misunderstanding and not a border crossing near the region of al-Jawf in the Yemeni province of Sa'dah. In an interview with the BBC, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said that there are what he called elements trying to damage relations between the two countries.

Salih, Saudi King Fahd Discuss Ties by Phone

JN3112130794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, together with Vice President Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, received at the Republican Palace in Ta'izz today brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives. Shaykh al-Ahmar briefed the president and vice president on the results of his visit to sisterly Saudi Arabia and his meetings with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two mosques; His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, commander of the National Guard; and His Highness Prince Sultan, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

The brother speaker of the House of Representatives conveyed to the president an invitation from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to visit sisterly Saudi Arabia. During the visit, discussions will deal with issues of interest to the relations between the two sisterly, neighborly countries, as well as the Yemeni-Saudi border issue. In addition, the discussions will deal with issues and developments of interest to our Arab and Islamic nation.

In a separate development, a telephone conversation was held yesterday between brother President Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The two leaders discussed issues and developments of interest to the brotherly relations and joint cooperation between the two neighborly countries. They exchanged consultations as to how to translate the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples, serve the relations of brotherhood and good-neighborliness, and bolster regional security, stability, and peace.

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Barzani, Talabani Supporters Clash in Kurdistan

Rival Groups Clash in Irbil

JN3112204194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to news reports from Irbil, rival supporters of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani were involved in clashes today, using medium and heavy weapons. The fighting in Irbil's residential areas and alleys left many killed or wounded. Talabani's gunmen attacked the so-called parliament in Irbil and took hostage a number of Barzani's supporters, including self-styled ministers and so-called parliament deputies, and [words indistinct].

Fighting Continues

NC0101121395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (MENA)—According to reports from the self-rule areas in north Iraq, fighting is continuing between the armed groups of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the pro-Iran Islamic Movement on the one hand, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, on the other. Talabani's forces have attacked the parliament building and captured a number of Barzani's supporters.

According to these reports, the Kurdish citizens last night staged angry demonstrations in the Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah areas, where the military operations are taking place between the Kurdish rival factions, and requested the UN representatives in north Iraq to take the necessary measures to halt the fighting between the Kurdish groups. These reports said that the sound of explosions and use of heavy and medium weapons were heard in the Iranian-Iraqi border areas. There is no information as yet about the losses among the armed groups as a result of the fighting that flared up late in December, though initial reports indicate that more that 200 people have been killed and 300 injured.

Attack on Kurd Parliament Building Denied

NC0101170795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its Arabic newscast today, the BBC cited the Iraqi regime's radio in Baghdad as saying that clashes continued to rage among the rival Kurdish factions in the city of Irbil in northern Iraq. The BBC added that the fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] had attacked the Kurdish parliament headquarters and taken prisoner a number of persons loyal to the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

We would like to affirm that neither the parliament and regional government building nor any ministry or state institution have been the scene of any fighting. The parliamentarians who are observing a sit-in in the parliament building are still there. Official forces of the regional police are providing protection for them.

PUK Decides on Cease-Fire

NC0101165195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 1 Jan 95

["Appeal" by the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan on 1 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is well known and obvious to the masses, and since the outbreak of the internecine fighting, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has been against this accursed war. It sincerely did its best to prevent an outbreak of fighting, because the present situation in Kurdistan is already difficult without having to bear the consequences of infighting.

Yesterday the Political Bureau addressed a cable to Dr. Ahmad Shalabi [chairman of the Unified Iraqi Congress], requesting that he call a meeting of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee to work for an end to the fighting.

This was the position of the PUK alone. Therefore, the requested meeting was not held.

We in the PUK are very interested in reaching a cease-fire for the following reasons:

1. Kurdistan is going through a difficult stage. Efforts should be made to avert further deterioration;
2. Fighting is not in the interest of our people. Only the enemies of our people stand to benefit;
3. The friends of the people of Kurdistan abroad demand a cease- fire; and,
4. The Baghdad regime will not miss this favorable opportunity to attack Kurdistan.

Therefore, and after the meeting of the supreme committee, brother Jalal and the Political Bureau have decided to cease hostilities. We will assume a defensive position. Our pishmarga will take up their positions at the front to stand up to any aggressive move by the regime and to defend the Kurds and Kurdistan.

[Dated] 1 January 1995

KDP Blames PUK for Fighting

JN0101191695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1642 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Statement issued by the Democratic Party of Kurdistan on 1 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Beloved brothers and sisters, masses of steadfast Irbil and of lofty Kurdistan. Yesterday was the last day of 1994. Today, is the first day of the new year, 1995, and we were hoping that the people of Kurdistan would enjoy a good and happy day. We congratulate ourselves, the masses of Kurdistan, and the Christian brothers. However, we feel great pain at these

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anomalous circumstances that we experience as a result of the fighting and the dangers stemming from the killings and looting to which Kurdistan, particularly beloved Irbil, are being subjected. All this is caused by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] stand which encourages fighting.

On the same day last year, this saboteur faction also fomented trouble and carried out looting operations through its illegal attack against the Islamic Movement. Kurdistan has fallen victim to the PUK war advocates for the second consecutive year at New Year, while most of the world countries enjoy happiness and prosperity.

Dear listeners, we do not want to reply to the rumors and the many questions as to which areas and villages are under our control, and whether this or that village is under our control or not? We do not want to reply because this is not our objective, and this needs no further clarification because we categorically do not believe in military occupation of any area and we will never try to show our strength through weapons and military operations.

It seems that the masses of Kurdistan, particularly the mediators in Parliament, the Iraqi National Congress [INC], the 16 Kurdish parties, and the Iraqi parties know very well the stand of our party and its leadership, which assiduously and sincerely works for peace and the implementation of the agreements. But, the PUK leadership has violated all the agreements, the latest being the agreement of 26 December 1994 and the agreement of 29 December 1994 under which it was agreed to stop the fighting, withdraw all armed elements from Irbil, reopen the (Katazan) road, and suspend media campaigns. The 16 Kurdish parties and the parliament delegation attest to this. What was the result?

The PUK has not implemented even one paragraph of the agreement, particularly the city of Irbil-related provisions. Before that, it did not hesitate to attack our party and to pave the way for the fighting that erupted on 29, 30, and 31 December, that is, from last Thursday to the morning of 31 December. All mediators, particularly the INC and the parliament, tried to convince Khosrow Rasul of the need to stop the fighting. But he says he is seeking vengeance. What vengeance and war is he talking about, at a time when the PUK has committed tens of crimes over the past two weeks? Yet, he wants to take revenge. Moreover, Khosrow could not do anything with his force in Irbil except reinforce it with another 400 or 500 armed men from the PUK in (Garmyan) and al-Sulaymaniyah. In addition, he also massed a huge force in Kou Senjaq to strike at our party's bases and cadres in quarter 92 in the city of Irbil.

This is how the PUK, behaved contrary to all agreements, particularly the one on halting the fighting reached on 29 December—an agreement approved by Jalal Talabani in writing. In violation of the agreement, the PUK launched an attack on one of our party's headquarters in quarter 92 and other places on 31 December.

Dear listeners: On the evening of 27-28 December, we announced that we were free to make any decision if the PUK violated the agreement once again. The PUK leadership did not believe that there would be a retaliation. It seems that it is still in a deep sleep.

Honorable citizens: Despite all this, the PUK calls for peace. We say we in the party did not start the fighting. We have always supported peace. However, there are several questions:

First: Peace can prevail only with those who seek it. Therefore, what is the guarantee the PUK leadership will offer to the Kurdistan people that it will not break its promise once again?

Second: Is the PUK ready to put the suspects in this fighting and in previous fighting on trial so they may receive a just punishment? A national congress was scheduled to be held in Kurdistan between 10-15 January 1995 to investigate the crimes of the previous fighting. However, fighting erupted anew and more atrocious crimes were committed.

Third: Does the PUK agree to assign the post of prime minister, from now on, to a person who has broken into hospitals and homes and who pursued and arrested citizens? Does the PUK agree that a person who will become an official in the government should respect his official position?

Fourth: Is the party leadership free to declare fighting and make peace, or should it consult its bases and the masses, and should the party masses not have an opinion in fighting and peace?

Dear citizens: With extreme regret, the city of Irbil has turned into a horrifying, destructive city as a result of the wrong approach of the persons who were supposed to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

We in the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [KDP] announce openly that we are for peace and for security and happiness for the citizens. We have repeatedly called for keeping the specter of war away from the city of Irbil. However, the decision by the PUK, in its meeting on 15 December, was to ignite fighting in Irbil. In fact, a PUK leader said frankly that fighting should be at the home of the enemy. Is Irbil the home of the enemy? Is the KDP the enemy? Are the KDP members and cadres suspects so that a decision pardoning them could be issued? What a mentality! What poisonous spite!

Steadfast masses in the city of Irbil: We are concerned about the life of every individual of our beloved city and we care about the panic of every child, woman, and family. However, what happened in previous times also happened this time. God bears witness to this and the mediators, most of whom are from the city of Irbil, know this. The PUK leadership is to blame for the killing of any individual and for the instability of the city. We beseech God almighty to place us on the path of safety

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and peace today rather than tomorrow and to save the city of Irbil from this torture. Amen.

Kurdish MP's Seek UN Intervention

NC0101171395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The parliamentarians who are observing a sit-in in the building of Kurdistan Parliament in the city of Irbil yesterday addressed cables to brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan. In the message, the parliamentarians demanded that the fighting be stopped in the city of Irbil so that peace and security can be reestablished.

The parliamentarians have decided to continue their sit-in at the parliament building until their demands are met. They decided also to set up a parliamentary delegation to visit the headquarters of the allied forces and the United Nations to request them to intervene to restore normalcy.

Fighting in Irbil Kills 472

JN0201152195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—Violent battles and clashes have been reported between the rebel cliques of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani in various areas in the city of Irbil in northern Iraq. This fighting has killed 472, including 42 children and one woman. The two cliques have indiscriminately shelled each other's positions, using heavy artillery.

Today's issue of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said students at Salah al-Din University staged a mammoth demonstration Saturday [31 December]. They shouted slogans demanding the ouster of agents and urging efforts to save the Kurdish people from the crimes committed by these agents.

In a related development, mosque preachers in Irbil on Friday assailed the renegade cliques, demanding that they immediately evacuate the region in order to save the Kurdish people from their crimes. Furthermore, they called for restoring security and stability in the region, and also for rescuing the Kurdish people from the crimes committed by the renegade cliques.

'Ferocious' Infighting Near Irbil

NC0301150695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (MENA)—Reports arriving from the autonomy area in northern Iraq this afternoon say that ferocious battles have been raging for the past few hours on the outskirts of the strategic city of Irbil between the gunmen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani.

According to reports, a large force of the pro-Iranian Kurdistan Revolutionary Party led by Adham Barzani has arrived in the area to assist Barzani's troops at a number of points on the outskirts of the city in order to regain control of their lost positions.

The reports point out that clashes raged for over four hours in the areas of (Sidawah), (al-Shari' al-Sittini), (Dur al-Umana'), and (Blashawah). In these clashes, 48 of Talabani's fighters and 36 of Barzani's were killed and many others wounded on both sides.

Reports add that Talabani's gunmen have taken prisoner Interior Minister Yunus Rojbani and Education Minister Dr. Nasih Ghafur, both loyal to Barzani.

Moreover, Mas'ud Barzani's family left the area last night for Dahuk in northern Iraq under armed protection by his loyal forces. Meanwhile, a large number of Talabani's gunmen in the past few hours headed for the area of Masif Salah-al-Din in northern Iraq, the road to which was closed by Barzani's gunmen following fierce confrontations between gunmen of the two sides.

Clashes were continuing this afternoon in northern Iraq between the gunmen of the two major Kurdish parties.

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Efrat Settlement Issues, Cabinet Decision Reported

Legal Opinion Allows Halt to Construction

TA0101165695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A legal opinion handed down by the attorney general tonight enables the government to halt construction at the settlement of Efrat in the 'Etzyon Bloc south of Jerusalem. After studying the issues and a series of consultations, the attorney general found that most of the procedure by which the land was transferred to the settlers' organization was in fact proper, but he states that the government can withdraw from the contract on the grounds of the public's interest. Abrogation of the contract would involve payment of compensation.

Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir is to meet this evening with the prime minister to explain his ruling, after which it is to be raised for a decision at a meeting of the cabinet tomorrow.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 1 January adds: "Government ministers believe that the construction work on the disputed hill in Efrat will be halted until all the aspects of the affair are clarified."]

Attorney General's Ruling Detailed

TA0101110595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the legal opinion to be submitted to Rabin this morning, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir states that the government can annul the lease it signed with the Giv'at Tamar Society under the pretext that it is withdrawing from the contract to meet vital public needs.

The government will then argue that the peace process and the Cairo agreement have changed the circumstances in a way that justifies a breach of contract to safeguard vital public interests. The attorney general will emphasize that the cancellation of the contract will make it necessary to pay a huge amount in compensation to the society members.

Senior political sources assessed yesterday that Rabin will order work at the site stopped in the wake of the attorney general's legal opinion. The prime minister may also submit the attorney general's opinion to the cabinet tomorrow.

In his legal opinion, the attorney general emphasizes that he is not intervening in the political decision on whether to stop the construction; however, from the legal point of view, the government can be provided with a legal "umbrella" in case the decision is appealed at the High Court of Justice.

In consultations held in the attorney general's office over the weekend, it was universally agreed that the Efrat issue is a "test case" for the handling of future appeals from the settlements for permission to implement plans and construction contracts signed prior to the Oslo agreement.

In these consultations, it was clarified that when the Rabin government was established and the peace process launched, the government issued an order to freeze construction and development work in many settlements, thereby breaching contracts. At that time, the government informed contractors hired by the Construction and Housing Ministry that it is halting many construction projects and that it will compensate them for their losses. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 1 January carries a report by Hemi Shalev on pages 1 and 2, adding: "A vast majority of ministers are in favor of stopping construction work on the disputed hill near Efrat immediately. Some of the ministers believe the work must be stopped 'by any means,' because the crisis is endangering the continuation of the political process with the PLO."

[The report adds: "Meretz ministers will pressure the government from the inside by issuing an ultimatum: a halt to the work or a coalition crisis. Minister Shulamit Aloni sharply criticized Prime Minister Rabin for concealing the promises he gave to Knesset Member Hanan Porat in August 1993 on expanding settlement in Efrat and other places."]

Netanyahu on 'Legal Right' of Residents

TA0101165995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following is a reaction of opposition leader, Biyamin Netanyahu, to the Efrat issue when he was interviewed by Sylvia Leif in Haifa:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I think this is an outrageous and transparent statement of blackmail. I think the government should resist it and should not succumb to it. What it should do is live up to the government's initial decision, not waffle, not reverse itself, and allow the legal right of the residents of Efrat to build their houses. This is legal and within Efrat's jurisdiction. If the Arab residents or the Arab side has any claims, they can bring it to the supreme court, but to knuckle under to blackmail and to threats of violence and renewed intifadah means that in fact, this government has no position at all and cannot stand on its own two feet. [end recording]

And on the issue of the consultations, the negotiations now under way with Syria, Netanyahu, the Likud chairman, had this to say:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] As long as the Israeli forces and Israeli armor are on the Golan Heights, within a stone's throw from Damascus, Syria has no credible war option, as they found out in 1973. They attacked us, in a

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surprise attack, and within three weeks we were at the gates of Damascus. Since then the border has been quiet, and for obvious reasons, because Syria does not have a realistic war option, but it will have such an option if we withdraw from the Golan Heights, if, as the government is now intimating, we will take away the Israeli forces from the Golan Heights and put in their place a few hundred American observers which are militarily worthless as a blocking force. Then Syria will have that renewed war option. So in the name of peace, this government is pursuing the renewal of a war option for Syria. [end recording]

Officials Offer Settlers Compromise

TA0201082495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet will discuss the construction work in Efrat this morning. Senior officials who deal with this issue are offering a compromise—building the new neighborhood near the settlement, but not on the disputed hill. The senior sources say that the heads of the settlers' association violated an agreement made with them some 10 months ago, according to which they were to build the new neighborhood on Hazayit Hill, and instead they started working on Hatamar Hill.

The Efrat settlers' association secretary said in reaction that the Construction and Housing Ministry wanted the works to take place on Hatamar Hill not on Hazayit Hill, next to the settlement. The ministry officials also wanted to interchange the hills' names, he claimed. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent has learned that in the consultations at the Attorney General's Office last night, it was revealed that there were contradictions between the government's policy and its actual deeds, and that the ministries positions were not coordinated. For example, after the cabinet decided on the settlement freeze, several lots near Efrat were proclaimed government property. Two months before the Oslo agreement was signed, the construction and housing minister and the prime minister exempted the Efrat settlers's association from paying the 16 million shekels lease for the land although they did not know who the association members were. In general, the construction and housing minister's moves were taken with the prime minister's knowledge, but other ministers were not aware of the decisions.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza decided that if the government orders halting the works on the disputed hill in Efrat, tens of thousands of people will stage a demonstration there. They also plan to place tents or mobile homes outside every settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as part of the settlements' master plan. Yinon Ahiman, head of the Efrat Council, told our correspondent Gil Litman that he had spoken on the phone with 10 ministers and stressed to them the gravity with which the settlers will view any decision to stop the works.

The [moderate religious] Memad Movement published a statement saying it opposes surrendering to Arab pressure to stop the works in Efrat in principle. The movement considers the 'Etzyon Bloc an example of a settlement bloc that is to remain under Israeli sovereignty under any future political arrangement. [passage omitted]

The National Religious Party and Tzomet Knesset factions decided that even if the government decides to temporarily halt the works in Efrat, they will bring a motion of no-confidence in the government up for a Knesset vote this afternoon. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Efrat Leaders Reach Compromise With Sheves

TA0201135195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Efrat leaders say they have reached a compromise with Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, under which construction work will be carried out on Hazayit Hill, which is nearer the settlement. Tamar Hill, however, will remain under the jurisdiction of the Efrat local council.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip [YESHA'] convened in Efrat to discuss this compromise. Most YESHA' Council members oppose the compromise proposal, because it does not explicitly state when the construction work on Hazayit Hill will commence or when work will be resumed on Tamar Hill.

The Peace Now movement states it is opposed to the compromise proposal. The Peace Now spokesman said that construction work must cease at all the settlements, adding that the government must not surrender to the settlers, thereby harming the peace process.

Rabin Answers Knesset No-Confidence Motion

TA0201155195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister says that under no circumstances will his government accept continued work on Tamar Hill. He added he will do everything to reach an understanding with the Efrat residents on continuing work on Hazayit Hill which is closer to the settlement.

He spoke in the Knesset, in answer to a no-confidence motion submitted by the NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet. NRP Knesset Member Yig'al Bibi who presented the no-confidence motion quoted the Bible, saying that the glory has departed from Israel today. [1 Samuel 4:21]

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reported earlier that the Meretz ministers as well as several Labor ministers are opposed to the prime minister's proposal to move construction work from Tamar Hill to Hazayit

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Hill. The Meretz faction has leveled strong criticism over the government's moves in the affair.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in their meeting the Meretz faction members expressed a great deal of fury at what they defined as continued land expropriation and secret construction in the territories.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has begun to prepare for protests and demonstrations in the disputed hill area and throughout Judaea and Samaria.

Cabinet Decides To Halt Work at Tamar Hill

TA0201172995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1645 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet meeting on the Efrat issue has ended. The cabinet decided, as expected, on an immediate halt to work on Tamar Hill. Instead, the government has proposed that the Efrat settlers work on Hazayit Hill, expanding their settlement on this other hill where they will be allowed to erect additional buildings.

Another proposal approved by the cabinet was the setting up of a ministerial team to supervise construction and settlement expansion work. These are the main points of the government's decision, and we now have to wait and see whether the settlers accept the decision. Talks with them have been ongoing all this time in an attempt to convince them to accept the decision.

The government decision does not refer to the settlers' desire to have the work continue uninterrupted, to have the bulldozers moved from Tamar Hill directly to Hazayit Hill. The government's decision makes the resumption of work on Hazayit Hill conditional on cessation of all work on Tamar Hill. The decision contains some quite complex legal formulas, but this is what it means: The Hazayit Society, the original name of the society that tried to build on Tamar Hill, can carry out work on Hazayit Hill on condition that all work on Tamar Hill stops completely.

This then is the cabinet's decision. The Meretz ministers opposed this decision, and Minister Shim'on Shetrit abstained from the vote because he supports carrying out the work, certainly in the 'Etzyon Bloc, because otherwise, in his opinion, this cabinet is withdrawing from its previous decision regarding the security lines which will be part of the permanent arrangement.

In any event, all Labor ministers supported the draft resolution submitted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. As said, the Meretz ministers are opposed. They support a halt to all work. In summary, the decision recommends a complete stop on the disputed hill at once. The proposal is for the Efrat settlers and Hazayit Society to resume work on Hazayit Hill.

More on Cabinet Decision; Rabin Reacts

TA0201191695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz following the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 2 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Raz] A cabinet decision was made following a long day of discussions which started at 0900 [0700 GMT] this morning and ended a short while ago. The decision is to give Hazayit Hill to the Efrat settlers instead of the area allocated to the Hazayit Society on Tamar Hill. Incidentally, no one in the government could explain what took place, how the original intention to allocate an area on Hazayit Hill next to Efrat turned into a license to build on Tamar Hill. In any event, the special decision released at the end of this long day of deliberations the government stated that it stands by its decision on stopping the construction. The government also announced the issuance of instructions to the authorized body in Judaea and Samaria to suspend the permit for work on Tamar Hill, given by the local committee at the time. In other words, no work whatsoever can be carried out on Tamar Hill.

Neither the settlers, nor the Palestinians are pleased with the government decision. In his first comment after the cabinet meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reacted to the decision and the general dissatisfaction by the parties involved in this decision.

[Rabin] I would very much hope that, generally speaking, when houses are added to settlements in Judaea and Samaria—certainly in reference to Efrat which is part of the 'Etzyon Bloc—that the addition will be natural, not suddenly skipping over an area of 1.5 km, but rather to abide by the system of closely knit construction which will preserve the image and appearance of a single settlement.

[Raz] You may have lit a tinder box because neither the Jewish nor the Palestinian sides accept this decision.

[Rabin] First, I should be at peace with what I undertook two years ago and with what seems to me to be compatible with government policy. There is no law that says it is forbidden to build houses within the framework of settlements existing in Judaea and Samaria, but when the houses are built they should be built one next to the other and not 1 or 2 km apart, creating friction with an Arab village.

[Raz] So much for the prime minister. How do the other ministers and the cabinet cope with settler declarations heard in the course of today that they intend to begin expanding settlements in Judaea and Samaria? This issue was addressed by another cabinet decision that sets up a special ministerial team which will include, among

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others, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the justice minister, the communications minister, and other ministers, such as the construction and housing minister and the finance minister.

The team will also be joined by professionals so as to prevent the possibility of the government losing control over developments in the territories, since the decision adopted a short while ago only speaks of providing an alternative hill for the settlement of Efrat. The government wants to cope with the possibility of the settlements beginning to expand without the government's control. Thus, contrary to the situation to date, the government will henceforth supervise construction in the territories. Here is what Prime Minister Rabin said on the matter.

[Rabin] The settlers cannot do so. In Efrat's case, as was said before, the process was completely legal. The Efrat and Hazayit Society people did not do anything illegal. It is only that we found ourselves, due to some hitch, in a situation which deviated from the original plan of adding houses next to the settlement, not 1.5 or 2 km away.

[Raz] Rabin means that the original intention was to give the Hazayit Society—a Society for Housing, Social Welfare, and Religion, as is the official name of this society—an area on Hazayit Hill next to Efrat. Instead, due to a very ambiguous process, they received an area on the disputed Tamar Hill which is close to al-Khidr. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 2 January includes an interview with Prime Minister Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Asked whether the government intends to tighten control over settlement activity, Rabin says:

["The government decision does not prevent building here and there, as long as this activity does not come from the government budget and so long as it agrees with government policy."

[Asked whether Efrat and the surrounding area will remain under Israeli sovereignty after the permanent agreement, Rabin answered: "I am not dealing now with the permanent solution. Israel's security border must run along the Jordan River and also include the 'Etzyon Bloc and other areas, which are part of our concept. Why don't you read our platform?"

[Sukenik adds: "Rabin in fact has mixed feelings: on the one hand he regards the 'Etzyon Bloc—Efrat included—as part of Israel even after a Palestinian entity is established in the territories. On the other hand he knows he can expect a confrontation with the settlers, and apparently with the Palestinians as well. Most of the ministers do not believe the matter has been settled, and there are sharp differences of opinion between them on this issue."]

No-Confidence Motion Over Efrat Rejected

TA0201192095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago the Knesset plenum rejected the no-confidence motion submitted by the NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet over stopping construction at Efrat, as decided by the government today.

Forty-three Knesset members [MK's] voted in favor of the no-confidence motions; 60 were opposed; and there were no abstentions.

The NRP MK's claimed during the debate that the government decision on Efrat breaks all the rules in the political game.

Ben-Eli'ezer Reacts to Cabinet Decision

TA0201173495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that construction work on Tamar Hill started simply due to what he termed a mixup. He claims that when Prime Minister Rabin and he approved the construction work, they were referring to Hazayit Hill, but since nobody supervised the work the mistake was not discovered. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer was speaking to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

Earlier it was reported that the attorney general's legal opinion determined that the ownership of the Tamar Hill land was properly transferred to the government.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 2 January adds: "Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, rejected the government decision, terming it disappointing. Al-Tibi said the decision means an increase in settlements. The olive branch of the peace process has withered in this move from Tamar Hill to Hazayit [Olive] Hill."]

Sarid Comments on Cabinet Decision

TA0201192895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Interview with Meretz Minister Yosi Sarid by Ya'aqov Eylon and Micky Haimowitz following the cabinet decision on Efrat, in Jerusalem "this evening"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Haimowitz] Good evening Minister Yosi Sarid. Although the settlers are not pleased, you are still a member of the cabinet that approved a new settlement today.

[Sarid] This is the reason we did not vote for this decision. As is known, I submitted my draft proposal which had earlier been supported by many Labor ministers and finally only by the Meretz ministers. Our

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platform indicates that we do not support any settlement, anywhere, anytime, and we did not think we should change our practice at this stage.

[Haimowitz] Why oppose a compromise though? After all, the government is going in the direction of stopping settlements. Should the only way be one of a tough attitude toward the settlers? Should a compromise not be reached occasionally?

[Sarid] We are not against compromises in general. The question here is whether a settlement is or is not set up, and it has been set up. True, it has been set up at a more convenient and a less provocative site. The government's decision is generally not as good as it could have been; it was much worse before, but it is still not as good as it should have been.

[Eylon] Minister Sarid, how do you react to the claim that you and your Meretz government colleagues are very particular about Israel's implementation of the autonomy agreement with the PLO, but perhaps less so with regard to the other side's implementation of the same agreement? As a small example, the Palestinian Authority [PA] yesterday issued a rather simplistic announcement whereby the late Uri Megidish's murderers will not be handed over to Israel because he was murdered before the Cairo accord was signed. We did not hear your reaction to this.

[Sarid] Our stance on settlements has nothing to do with the accord. Facing you is a person who has been opposed to any settlement anywhere, ever since he entered politics. So there is no connection, although I am greatly displeased with the way the Palestinians are implementing the accord. You cited a good example, and I think I am one of the strongest critics of the PA for not abiding by the conditions of the accord as they should have. Still, this has nothing to do with the Palestinians. The issue of settlements, in our opinion, has always served as the worst obstacle to peace. We thought so 25 years ago, and have no reason to change our minds now. On the contrary, our opinion on the matter is stronger, since now, at long last, we have a partner for talks. When we thought so in the past we did not have anybody to talk to at all.

Netanyahu Criticizes Decision on Efrat

TA0201193795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Menashe Raz in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Mr. Netanyahu, a tense and emotionally charged conflict has erupted on the disputed hill between al-Khidr and Efrat. The government was obliged to calm tempers. Is there anything better than compromise?

[Netanyahu] This is not a compromise, but rather a surrender masquerading as a compromise. What we have here is a surrender to the dictates of 'Arafat and people who have resorted to violence in his name.

[Raz] Do you believe you have a better solution?

[Netanyahu] Certainly. When confronted with blackmail, the best thing to do is not to surrender. This is the first thing.

[Raz] Who is doing the blackmailing here?

[Netanyahu] The blackmail is being exerted by threatening to resume the intifadah and terrorism and carry out acts of violence. Incidentally, these threats have not come only from 'Arafat's official representatives, but also from the his unofficial representatives, namely several Knesset members and Israeli Arabs such as Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Raz] You have not told me what you would have done to calm tempers in the highly agitated Arab camp?

[Netanyahu] I would neither calm their tempers nor inflame them. I would simply explain to them that we will not give in to blackmail and that my government—this is what Rabin should have said—stands behind the legitimate and legal decisions it has made.

[Raz] Do you not find anything wrong in a negotiating process between the government and the settlers? Do you not think the prime minister should have reached a firm decision without holding such negotiations?

[Netanyahu] He did reach such a decision when he approved the new neighborhood under the framework of Efrat's master plan. Now he has retracted it. We have two problems here: one, this constitutes a withdrawal from the Labor Party platform. Today the 'Etzyon Bloc—namely Jerusalem's southern suburbs—which is included in the Labor platform, has been removed from the platform and thrown into the wastebasket. Here we have the beginnings of a shrinking around Jerusalem being done at 'Arafat's behest.

The second thing that happened today is, in my opinion, much graver than a hill here and a hill there, namely a sharp withdrawal from Zionism and from the firm stand against terrorism. All the Arabs without exception, whether at home or abroad, are eager to see whether this government will for once stick to any principle and stand behind its decisions—or whether it will continue its indefinite withdrawal.

What we witnessed today is that it is continuing this endless withdrawal. This is totally uncalled for; this deterioration can be stopped.

Settlers Council Leaders To Fight Decision

TA0201194295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are rejecting the government's proposal to build on Hazayit

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Hill within the Efrat boundaries instead of Tamar Hill, and are launching a struggle against it. Efrat Council head Yinon Ahiman first accepted the government's decision on condition that work on Hazayit Hill begin immediately. But after he heard that a ministerial team had been set up to supervise the work he decided to oppose the decision because, as he put it, this proves that there is no intention to begin construction at once.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the council leaders are now discussing comprehensive plans to fight the government's decision. They are planning to violate the military order banning entry onto Tamar Hill tomorrow, and to get many settlers to come there. The council leaders also decided to begin expanding all settlements in Judaea and Samaria at once.

Peres Briefs 'Arafat on Efrat

TA0301061295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke with PLO Yasir 'Arafat last night and updated him on the cabinet's decision on Efrat. A senior source within the Palestinian Authority [PA] told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PA rejected the cabinet's decision.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip decided last night that the leaders of the settlers will decide which steps to take within two days. Meanwhile, the settlers will wait in order to observe whether the government is upholding its decision to immediately start construction work on Hazayit Hill.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the council also condemns the cabinet's decision to stop work on Tamar Hill.

Joint Investigation of Erez Incident Continues

Policemen Said To Be Hamas Members

TA0301064695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The responsible officials in the Palestinian Authority prefer not to comment on last night's incident until the joint investigation with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] into the matter is concluded. Israeli sources, however, have already expressed the assessment that the Palestinian policemen who were killed in the Gaza Strip last night were really Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who had joined the Palestinian police. Our political correspondent spoke with Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning, as the two ministers were on their way to Cairo to attend the meeting of the joint Palestinian-Israeli Supreme Liaison Committee:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Foreign Minister Peres left for Cairo a short while ago to participate in the meeting of the joint Supreme Liaison Committee against the background of last night's serious incident in Gaza.

[Peres] I think there was a misunderstanding with the Palestinian policemen, although the commander of the Israeli force issued a warning and called on them to hold their fire. One of the policemen even came out. I am sorry that they continued shooting.

[Segal] Will this incident affect the deliberations of the supreme liaison committee this morning?

[Peres] It will undoubtedly hang in the air; however, to my great regret, such things happen.

[Segal] Foreign Minister Peres is accompanied by Ministers Moshe Shahal and Yosi Sarid. We asked Police Minister Shahal whether there is any information that the Palestinian policemen were on their way to carry out a terrorist attack in Israel or inside the autonomous area. The initial findings indeed indicate such an intention; however, this has yet to be confirmed.

[Shahal] We do not have the exact details. We have only initial data, which shows that the soldiers were forced to defend themselves and that, in this regard, they acted in accordance with their authority and the existing regulations.

[Segal] Both yesterday's grave incident in the Gaza Strip and the affair at al-Khidr will cast a shadow on the deliberations of the Palestinian-Israeli Supreme Liaison Committee in Cairo. [end recording]

Hamas Joining Police Seen as 'Policy'

TA0301114395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A joint Israeli-Palestinian team is continuing to investigate last night's shooting near the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip where four Palestinian policemen were killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli soldiers. Reacting to the incident in Gaza in which four Palestinian policemen were killed was Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit, who spoke to reporter Sylvia Leif:

[Begin Shetrit recording] We have already seen that there is a high-level policy to encourage Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people to conscript into the Palestinian police. Many of the terrorist activities have been committed by Palestinian police people who are Hamas people. This includes the Jerusalem last bombing, and we should see it as very grave and a source of great concern for us, because this suggests a pattern of activity that Hamas people join the police, have access to armaments, and have access to perhaps better transportation, and they use their status to commit crimes. [end recording]

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Meetings With Palestinians Canceled

TA0301103895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am canceled a visit to Jericho after the Palestinians prevented his bodyguards from conducting a preliminary inspection of the site. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the Palestinians eventually agreed to let the tourism minister enter Jericho accompanied by his bodyguards, but Bar'am refused because no preliminary inspection had taken place. Minister Bar'am described the matter to our correspondent as an unpleasant diplomatic incident but explained that he understood the Palestinians' behavior in light of yesterday's events at the Erez checkpoint.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who holds the information portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, put off a meeting with Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili in the wake of last night's incident near the Erez checkpoint in which four Palestinian policeman were killed after they shot at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Zvili and 'Abd-Rabbuh were scheduled to meet today in Jericho.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that classes were canceled at the Islamic University and at al-Azhar University in Gaza late this morning to protest the death of the four Palestinian policemen.

U.S. Citizen Sent to Prison for Hamas Activities

TA0301093495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Ramallah military court has sentenced Muhammad Salah, a U.S. citizen of Palestinian origins, to five years in prison after convicting him of belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and providing services to members of the organization. Among other things, Salah was convicted of transferring funds to finance the activities of Hamas' military arm.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Salah was arrested by the Shin Bet upon his arrival from the United States approximately two years ago.

General Views Peace Process, Nuclear Threat

TA3012132194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Gilat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel might find itself forced to decide about an operation against Iran and Iraq as early as 1995. This can be deduced from remarks by Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch, at a Tel Aviv University seminar, in memory of Aharon Yariv, on developments on the eve of the new year.

Gen. Dayan said that "a significant leap forward in Iran's and Iraq's nuclear capability could force Israel to make a decision as early as 1995."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 30 December, in a page A1 report by political correspondent Aluf Ben, adds that Gen. Dayan said "Israel is concerned about Iranian attempts to accelerate the pace of its procurement of nuclear weapons while exploiting the opportunities it already has to acquire technology and know-how. Dayan said it is possible to take 'considerable shortcuts' to acquire nuclear arms by exploiting the international situation."]

In reference to the Syrian front, Dayan said: "Even if there is a Syrian policy announcement, a threat evaporates much slower than political accords."

The general believes that the Israeli answer to the Syrian threat is quite good and that an agreement with Syria will change Israel's strategic situation, as all the surrounding states will have terminated the state of war with it.

In reference to the Palestinians, the Planning Branch chief said that the fabric of ties to be worked out with them this year will have a decisive impact.

Terrorism will continue to accompany the process, he believes, but we must demand that the Palestinians fight it, because increased terror could endanger the process itself. He stressed that even peace with Israel's neighboring states does not preclude a fundamentalist threat to the stability of the regimes in the region.

Dayan warned that in Israeli society, where personal fulfillment is more important than contribution to society, where there is a desire for peace that has still not been attained, and where people want a fairer distribution of reserve duty, there is a need to emphasize national strength, which is also a component of the process.

In response to Dayan, President Weizman said: The public is strong. It must be shown the great things that have been accomplished and not be called on to strengthen the army.

"I did not say the public does not have national fortitude," Dayan replied. "I merely think that now is the time to demonstrate it."

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King Returns From Austria, Speaks to Media

JN0201214295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned tonight to the homeland with God's care at the end of a visit to Austria that lasted for several days during which he underwent medical tests on his middle ear.

His majesty was received by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Her Highness Princess Tharwat; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court chief; advisers of his majesty the king; and cabinet members.

Upon his return to the homeland, his majesty answered correspondents' questions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Sir, thank God for your safety and happy new year. We hope your journey back home was comfortable.

[Husayn] It was comfortable and very excellent, praise be to God.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] results of tests?

[Husayn] Praise be to God they are all good. The inflammation is over, and there might be a need for some small surgery in the future, but it is not urgent [words indistinct] at the best.

[Correspondent] On the occasion of the new year, what are your wishes, sir?

[Husayn] To all kinsfolk and lovers, the sons of the homeland [sentence incomplete as heard]. I am proud and will continue to be proud to be one of them as long as I live. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the political situation. How do you see the Arab conditions in light of the contacts that were held recently between some Arab leaders?

[Husayn] I wish success to brothers. We hope their contacts will be fruitful and that the results will be always for the interest of this nation [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Are you going to visit the United States soon?

[Husayn] Not in the very near future, but soon [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] You have promised that some internal changes would be made. Will we see something soon?

[Husayn] God willing, we have returned, and God willing, within a very short time [pauses] we are in a situation in which we continue to reconsider our conditions. Praise be to God we have covered an excellent stage. We thank and appreciate all those who shouldered the responsibility during this delicate stage with all honor and honesty. I think that we should also reconsider situation and the need for a new start [word indistinct] the future's responsibilities. [end recording]

Attack on Security Post in al-Baq'ah Camp Reported

JN3012162594 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 31 Dec 94-6 Jan 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A security post in al-Baq'ah [Palestinian refugee camp] has come under attack by unknown assailants using Kalashnikovs. One policeman was injured and taken to a hospital by a Civil Defense ambulance, which rushed to the scene.

Eyewitnesses who were near the spot said at exactly 2000 [1800 GMT] last Monday evening [26 December] they heard machine-gun fire from various directions aimed at the security post, which is near the preparatory schools complex in the center of the camp.

The eyewitnesses added that policemen returned fire, and that the assailants fled the scene. Additional security forces arrived on the spot and cordoned off the area in an attempt to capture the assailants. [passage omitted]

Several rumors are circulating about the attack on the security post. One rumor is that the shooting was carried out by a group of people on the run who are connected to the Jordanian Afghans case. Those people belong to the group of the leader of the al-Baq'ah region, Isma'il al-'Amayirah, who was recently sentenced to death. It is said that the security official who was injured was connected to the arrest of al-'Amayirah and that the attackers had specifically targeted him.

Another rumor is that this security post received an anonymous threat letter two months ago.

Meanwhile, security agencies have hushed up the incident. They have neither denied nor confirmed these rumors. Security agencies are now in control of the situation at the camp where life is proceeding normally. [passage omitted]

Assailants Said Part of 'Extremist Jihad Group'

JN0301112095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Jan 95 pp 1, 25

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Security organs have arrested four persons who attacked a security post at the al-Baq'ah [Palestinian refugee] camp last week. A sergeant in the security force was wounded in the attack.

Preliminary investigations found that all four individuals are members of an extremist jihad group, and that they have carried out this operation as a reaction to the sentences issued against the Jordanian Afghans.

[Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on page eight of its 3 January issue in a similar report adds: "the names of the four persons are as follows: Shadi Jawdat Taha, 18 years old; Tha'ir Yusuf Muhammad Ghanim, 24 years old;

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Corporal Yusuf Ahmad Salamah, 22 years old, from the Palestine Liberation Army in Amman; and Ibrahim Muhammad, 27 years old."]

Reaction to Tripartite Summit in Egypt Reported

Al-Majali Terms Summit 'Positive Gathering'

JN3112130094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We start the news with the remarks of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali who has described the latest Arab mini-summit in Alexandria, Egypt, as a positive gathering. He said he hopes such meetings will work towards ending Arab differences and bring inter-Arab relations back to normal.

In an interview with the BBC radio, Premier al-Majali said Jordan has always called for a meeting among Arab leaders to reach an agreement on liquidating Arab disputes. He recalled his proposal to solve Arab political differences through rescheduling them.

On relations with Syria, the prime minister pointed out that the Syrians have their own interpretation of the peace settlement, otherwise, Amman's ties with Damascus are quiet.

He said Jordan supports Syria's struggle to achieve its complete rights as Jordan has done.

On Egypt's stands on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the premier said Cairo has already blessed the agreement.

Al-'Anani Questions Objectives of Summit

JN0101115895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jan 95 pp 1, 20

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, has welcomed the call for holding an Arab summit, but said this summit should have a clear agenda and should lead to Arab reconciliation.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-'Anani said: We are aware that the Arabs are unable to take a position that ends differences and unifies stands, at least among the Arab countries concerned with urgent and important issues.

Dr. al-'Anani said: If the objective of the extraordinary summit held last week, was to realize more Arab cohesion and to be a start of unified Arab positions then we welcome it, but if it sought to discuss issues that concern the countries which participated in it, then Jordan's position is neutral and we wish success to our brothers.

Dr. al-'Anani added: If the objective was also to bolster the coordination of Arab positions on the peace process, then the other Arab parties involved in the peace process, such as Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO should have been invited. If the summit sought to support the Egyptian position on the weapons of mass destruction, then Jordan should have been invited because this subject is on its agenda. If it sought to support the Syrian position in the peace negotiations, then Jordan has always supported this position. Jordan sympathizes with the Iraqi people and at the same time respects the sovereign rights of the other Arab countries.

Dr. al-'Anani added: If the summit was held for these reasons, then there is nothing that directly concerns Jordan or conflicts with the declared Jordanian position. However, it is likely that the meeting was called for by the Egyptian president at the request of Syria. It is clear from the final communique and its tone that the summit siught to support the Syrian position and the Egyptian call, and to ask Iraq to implement all Security Council resolutions before the siege can be lifted. This was the demand that was supported by the recent summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Dr. al-'Anani said: If there is a call for an Arab summit, it should have come from the Arab League. Since the current Arab situation is not conducive to convening an Arab summit, Jordan had hoped last month's Casablanca summit would have been an opportunity for reconcilatory Arab meetings. Since the Alexandria meeting was termed an extraordinary meeting, then it agenda should have been based on current circumstances.

Officials Say Summit 'Disappointing'

JN3112092994 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 31 Dec 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] The final communique of the tripartite Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi summit has been largely disappointing to many observers, who viewed it as a new crack in inter-Arab relations through its attempt to entrench regional axes that impose a regional role on the other parties.

The observers said this axis seeks to set aside the current Arab political roles through this alliance of demographic, financial, and political forces that met in order to qualify themselves for playing this role rather than directing their capabilities toward restoring unity to Arab ranks.

Minister of Information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani told AL-ASWAQ that this conference was held to entrench the regional interests of the conferees, who discussed only their own interests because each one of them has its internal problems.

Answering a question on the rumor that Jordan intends to relinquish religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem during the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, he said this is something that can only decided by Jordan, which will

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not allow anyone to dictate a decision to it. The Jordanian role in supervising the holy shrines will continue and no one can deny it.

Political and parliamentary sources earlier said that Arab parties have asked Jordan to do so, and they made it a condition for returning relations with Jordan to their normal state.

A Jordanian official, who refused to be named, said this axis is waging a war against Jordan, and he who is in doubt should review the role of that axis at the Casablanca conference. The official said the way out of the Jordanian-Palestinian conflict is through drafting their bilateral relations based on clear and sound basis of joint role, which will ensure support for both parties.

A ranking Jordanian political source said the Jordanian position should be studied and assessed, especially after the signing of the treaty, in order to activate the Jordanian role internally and externally.

The source emphasized the importance of redrawing Jordanian-Palestinian relations in a clear manner that specifies the role of each party away from any possibility of distortion or misinterpretation.

Columnist: Summit Confirms 'Concerns'

JN3112095394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Dec 94 p 22

["Standpoint" column by Muhammad Ka'wash: "Alexandria Summit's Communique and Jordanian Efforts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the end of the Gulf war and the crack that took place in inter-Arab relations, Jordan has been the first to seek Arab reconciliation and the first to make efforts aimed at stopping Arab differences and reviving joint Arab action.

This is because Jordan realized early on the seriousness of the current stage and the depth of the Arab wounds. Therefore, Jordan was aware that this bitter reality would have even more bitter and difficult results.

The results of the Alexandria summit have come to confirm what Jordan sought and the concerns voiced by the Jordanian leadership, the foremost of which are the call for Arab reconciliation, the lifting of the siege on the Iraqi people, the revival of the Arab League's role, the unification of positions toward the challenges that define the future in the region, coordination among Arab capitals, and efforts toward realizing Arab economic integration.

Although this call was termed urgent by the Alexandria summit and efforts were called for to implement it now in the interest of the Arab future, it has come late. But this call is necessary and persistent, and it is better to realize it now, even if this comes late, because it is better late than never.

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Arrests of Islamists

NC3112192094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Dec 94

[Statement by Muslim Brotherhood's Media Bureau in Jordan; date not given—recorded; read by unidentified Muslim Brotherhood official]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current extensive arrests of Islamists by the Egyptian authorities do not come as a surprise, coming from a regime steeped in violence and hostility to Islam and which promotes the U.S.-Zionist objectives. The regime carries out these arrests on the pretexts of instability and what it describes as terrorism. The regime itself is responsible for the current conditions in Egypt because of its repression of freedom and its refusal to give freedom of action to those who promote Islam.

The recent arrests are part of the ongoing conspiracy against Islam and the Islamists and is an attempt to isolate them from any positions of power, particularly as the date for the People's Assembly elections draws near.

We of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan denounce these arrests, demand the release of all detainees, call for public freedom and that unhindered Islamic action be permitted just as other political forces are allowed to operate.

We also believe that the Egyptian regime is in a real predicament and faces numerous problems that it is trying to remedy by resorting to security measures whose failure has been demonstrated in many countries.

The only course left to the Egyptian regime is to make its peace with the people. More importantly, it must enforce the laws of God, provide for the people's basic needs, and give the people freedom of expression, thought, and assembly. If it does not do this, it will continue to live in a whirlpool of chaos and instability.

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Prime Minister Has Heart Surgery in U.S

NC0201192995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Statement released by the Prime Minister's Office—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri is currently at the heart surgery center in the [name indistinct] hospital in Atlanta, after having undergone angioplasty surgery for a narrowing artery. A statement released by the hospital said that it was decided to perform this operation on Prime Minister al-Hariri after a medical checkup after the catheterization of the coronary arteries of his heart performed previously in Paris. The statement says that al-Hariri's health is good and he will leave the hospital tomorrow. He will return to Beirut at the end of this week.

This evening, Lebanon television telephoned al-Hariri to enquire about his health. He said: Thank God, everything is good and there is no cause for concern.

Asked when he will leave the hospital, he said: At noon tomorrow.

Asked if he will return to Beirut at the end of this week, al- Hariri said: Yes, end of this week. Earlier I had medical checkups in France and decided to have these checkups again in Atlanta. God willing, I will leave the hospital tomorrow.

Al-Asad Calls al-Hirawi on Alexandria Summit

NC3112100394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Just in from our correspondent in the Presidential Palace Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din:

[Begin recording] A telephone conversation took place this morning between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They discussed the latest developments on local and regional levels. President al-Asad briefed President al-Hirawi on the Alexandria Arab summit and the results reached to close the Arab ranks and strengthen the Arab stance. They also discussed the Lebanese situation, particularly the steps Lebanon has taken recently, such as forming the security committee to discuss with the U.S. the lifting of the ban on Lebanon. President al-Asad expressed his support for Lebanon's steps within the constant coordination between the two countries. President al-Asad greeted President al-Hirawi and the Lebanese people for New Year.

President al-Hirawi today received a telephone call from 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who greeted him for New Year. They also discussed current developments. Fadlallah praised President al-Hirawi's recent stance, particularly formation of the security committee authorized to discuss with the Americans lifting the ban and defining the framework of its work. He noted that President al-Hirawi's explanation dispelled the fears certain people had about the implications of forming this committee. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Murr Views Alexandria Summit, Peace Talks

NC0101091895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and interior minister, in Beirut, by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Miliji] Before 1994 came to a close, Alexandria witnessed a tripartite summit among President Husni Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad, and Saudi Monarch King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. One of the first resolutions of the summit was support for the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process. How do Lebanese official circles view the Alexandria summit and its results?

[Al-Murr] We consider this summit to be very important to the Arab track as a whole and to the peace process, particularly to the Syrian-Lebanese peace process. We believe that the Syrian-Lebanese peace track has faltered recently. We feel that this summit gave fresh support to the peace process first, and to Arab unity. The Arab world recently has been in a state of semi-fragmentation. This summit was a very important step that injected a new positive spirit into the Arab situation. It is very important to the Lebanese and Syrians.

[Al-Miliji] The Alexandria summit statement voiced support for the Arab League role and joint Arab action?

[Al-Murr] This is very important because the Arab League role recently has been almost crippled. This organization was at one time an effective one. There is a need to reactivate the Arab League role. I think that mentioning the need to reactivate the Arab League role is very useful at this stage through which the Arab world is passing. I consider the Alexandria summit to be important on all levels, especially as regards boosting the peace process. Contrary to what some people believe, I think that it will push the peace process forward. Certain people think it might obstruct the peace process, but I think it will boost it. It will invigorate the peace process, give hope for unifying the Arab ranks, and may reactivate the Arab League and give it an important role on the Arab level.

[Al-Miliji] Can you tell us how far the Lebanese track in negotiations with Israel has reached?

[Al-Murr] You may know that the Lebanese track goes in tandem with the Syrian track because we share a common fate in the negotiations. Our government, in cooperation with the Syrian Government, led by President al-Asad, is keen on parallel progress in the peace track. Regarding the Lebanese track, I can only say that Lebanon demands that Security Council Resolution 425

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be implemented. This resolution provides for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. When Syria demands withdrawal from the Golan, it also always calls for withdrawal from south Lebanon and implementation of Resolution 425. The Lebanese and Syrian tracks are one. When you ask me how far we reached in the Lebanese track, I say that this year was not encouraging to the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, because we made no progress on the road to peace and withdrawal.

[Al-Miliji] What about the situation in south Lebanon, the Lebanese Resistance, the Israeli occupation, and the South Lebanese Army? What is the equation among these three parties?

[Al-Murr] It is a fact that when any country of the world is occupied, there is resistance to the occupation. When there is no occupation, there is no justification for the resistance. South Lebanon is occupied and so there is resistance. The Lebanese Government recognizes this situation because peoples have a right to resist when their land is occupied. The Lebanese Army has become a patriotic and unified Army and can shoulder the responsibility of security at any time. No pretext can be used in this regard because once the withdrawal takes place, the borders will not be in any danger because our Army is ready to take over all areas up to the Lebanese borders. The Army is a source of pride and is responsible for security. It has become a national, unified Army and will play its role fully. [passage omitted]

Radio Cites U.S. Daily on Syrian-Israeli Meeting

NC0101104795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES has cited sources in the U.S. Administration and other Middle Eastern sources as saying that Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been taking place in Washington for the past six months under U.S. sponsorship. The newspaper said that U.S. President Bill Clinton met last week with Syrian Chief of Staff Brigadier General Hikmat al-Shihabi and Israeli General Ehud Baraq in a private meeting at the White House. The meeting lasted around 40 minutes. All this, of course, is according to the U.S. newspaper.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0615 GMT on 1 Jan in a similar report adds the following:

"The American paper writes in its report that the Syrian and Israeli delegations did not bridge the gap between the stands of their two countries over their mutual security guarantees. However, these negotiations offered the opportunity for making progress on other points such as the agenda for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and establishing relations between the two countries. Citing an official who took part in the meeting with Clinton, the newspaper adds that he [not further identified] said during the meeting that the time has come to make a serious attempt to see whether there is common ground for reconciliation over security arrangements as part of the framework of comprehensive Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. The paper noted the role of prime mover that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is playing in these negotiations, where the ambassadors of the two countries used to meet sometimes three times a week with the two U.S. coordinators Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk."]

Judge Presses Charges Against Car Bomb Suspects

NC3012174894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Judge Nasri Lahhud, the government's representative in the military court, has received from the Lebanese Army's Intelligence Directorate a file on the investigations that were made into the booby-trapped car explosion that occurred on 21 December killing three persons and wounding others.

Judge Lahhud referred the file, together with the arrested persons, to the first military investigating judge, Riyadh Tali'ah, requesting him to undertake the necessary interrogations and issue the arrest warrants.

Judge Lahhud pressed charges against Ahmad 'Abd-al-Badi' al-Hallaq, his wife Hanan, Tawfiq Nasir, and Suhayl Humsi, all of Lebanese nationality, as well as Wafiq Nasir, a Palestinian, and whoever will be uncovered during investigations. Judge Lahhud demanded that these people be arrested on the charge of committing terrorist acts in the area of Sfayr in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of law No. 11 [figures indistinct], the articles on capital punishment.

Judge Lahhud accused these persons of enlisting in the ranks of the Israeli enemy; making contacts with Israeli intelligence officers Generals Dani, Mike, and Tony in Marj 'Uyun, in Israel, and in Cyprus; and dealing with and working for the Mosad. These crimes are mentioned in Articles 273 and 278 of the penal code and are punishable by death and hard labor.

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Media Comment on Results of Alexandria Summit

Radio on 'Satisfaction' With Results

JN3012160494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Arab political and popular circles have voiced their satisfaction with the results of the Alexandria summit, which brought together the two presidents al-Asad and Mubarak and King Fahd. These circles consider the summit's communique as the beginning of a serious action to stop the deterioration in the Arab situation, an initiative to consecrate the pan-Arab constants and obligations, and an attempt to revitalize the bodies of joint Arab action—foremost of which is the Arab League. They also consider the summit's clear support for Syria's position and just demands and the summit's call for Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, as a clear reference for the need to stop Israel's penetration of the Arab rank and not to submit to its proposals that target dominating the Arab region.

Everybody knows that Syria has genuinely responded to the peace efforts and exerted great efforts to make it succeed and that the lack of progress, thus far, on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks is the result of the Israeli intransigence that has escalated following the unilateral action by some in concluding deals with Israel at the expense of Arab rights. This has encouraged Israel to press ahead with the policy of prevarication, procrastination, and refusal to withdraw. Israel has not only declined to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon and implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 it has also declined to discuss the future of Jerusalem and to evacuate the West Bank. Now, it demands the amendment of the lame and distorted Oslo agreement to keep occupation just as it is, expands settlements in the West Bank, and builds new settlements.

Israel would not have defied international legitimacy resolutions in this manner and brushed aside the essence of the American initiative—the exchange of land for peace—had some Arabs not violated these resolutions and signed separate agreements that do not even stipulate self-determination either in the present or the future.

Israel has viewed the deterioration of the unity of the Arab rank and the disunity of Arab states as a golden opportunity to penetrate the region, lay its political and economic sway, and evade commitment to withdrawal from occupied Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab lands. So, the Arab situation has deteriorated to such an awful extent that the Arab present and future have become exposed to the gravest damages and losses.

It was natural for Syria to revitalize energies and for the sincere Arab efforts to be devoted to addressing this deterioration and promoting the region. Hence came the Alexandria summit, which everyone has considered a bright spot. Observers considered the summit's call for supporting Syria and boosting the Arab League as a first step down a long road toward reviving Arab solidarity. Lending support to Syria means commitment to constants and refraining from relinquishment or trailing behind Israel's positions. Supporting Syria means safeguarding the future of the nation because Syria is the nation's conscience, vigilant protector, and its struggling vanguard. This support also means bolstering the role of the Arab League, adhering to its resolutions, and abstaining from violating its principles. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a pan- Arab conflict and no Arab party is allowed to take unilateral action, especially since such unilateral actions have only harmed the higher Arab interests, including the Palestine question. It is not strange for Israel to voice its dissatisfaction with the results of the Alexandria summit because Israeli wagered on the total collapse of Arabs and because the summit is a serious effort to stop this collapse and take the initiative again to achieve a pan-Arab awakening and reach a unified stand. The strength of Arabs lies in their unity. Without this unity, Arabs will not be able to impose the will of just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy resolutions and the restoration of Arab lands and rights.

Press on Israel 'Discontent'

JN3112081894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In their editorials today, TISHRIN and AL-THAWRAH comment on the Alexandria summit, its results, and its importance for the Arabs. Under the headline "The Summit of Great Expectations," TISHRIN says: Israel surprised nobody when it hastened to declare its discontent with the Alexandria summit and started a campaign to cast doubts about its results. This meeting, which comprised the leaders of the three basic Arab countries, resulted in clear pan-Arab stands that will help halt the disintegration caused by Israel among Arab ranks. The summit also lays the foundation of a comprehensive pan-Arab awakening to maintain the Arab nation's interests and rights.

TISHRIN attributes the Israeli discontent to the fact that in the recent past, Israel has been working to undermine the pillars of contemporary Arab existence and to erase the Arab homeland's pan- Arab identity.

The paper notes the importance of the Alexandria summit on more than one level, especially with regard to the issue of Middle East peace. TISHRIN says that events have proven that by virtue of their weight, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia constitute the basis of any joint Arab action. The three states are the Arab homeland's major powers and have a special responsibility toward the Arab nation and its future. Therefore, bolstering

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cooperation and coordination among those three states in all fields will create a solid basis for any Arab cooperation or solidarity.

TISHRIN says that the Alexandria summit has paid great attention to this issue and called for continuing political coordination among the three parties and enhancing the existing economic cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, and development in the service of their joint interests and for the good of the Arab nation.

TISHRIN adds that the Alexandria summit has been successful in laying solid and durable bases for halting the Arab deterioration and tackling the problems hindering the resumption of the march of solidarity and cooperation among Arab states. The paper says: The summit has reasserted the bases for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace, a true peace that ends the Israeli occupation, injustice, and aggression. The summit has also opened new and wide horizons for bolstering cooperation among Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and for improving and clearing the Arab atmosphere. It also underlined the importance of resolving bilateral Arab problems through peaceful means and abiding by the Arab League Charter.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: This summit will enter history because it has revived the Arab nation's hopes for coordination and militant solidarity. It also enhanced Arab self-confidence. We are hopeful that the results will contribute to ending the current painful Arab situation, reuniting the Arab nation, healing its wounds, and restoring its health.

AL-THAWRAH says that the results of this summit must be very important, for it is an extremely significant and difficult job to tackle the current Arab situation.

AL-THAWRAH says: The three leaders have met the required level of pan-Arab responsibility for laying the foundations of a new Arab situation. This situation will result in new arrangements, the most conspicuous of which setting the Arab house in order before it is blown away by the wind. Setting the Arab house in order is certainly a difficult task. But it is a historic, pan-Arab duty.

AL-THAWRAH says that setting the Arab house in order will provide the basis for an Arab awakening. Basically, setting the house in order requires reviving the pan-Arab institutions. For about half a century, those institutions have been of special importance to the Arabs, who have relied on them whenever they faced problems. It is well known how anxious Israel is and how many times it tried to topple those institutions and completely annul their role. Despite their weaknesses, the Arab League and summit institutions will remain two pan-Arab institutions signaling the Arab nation's unity and joint destiny.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says the summit and its expected results call for careful consideration. Hence the importance of the summit in halting Arab deterioration and the Israeli back-door penetration of Arab ranks. Thus, the summit will curb the relinquishment of pan-Arab rights and sanctities, which are being violated without any profound sense of responsibility and without any sense of the seriousness of such actions. Those who are undertaking such actions are placing themselves in Israel's service just to win its satisfaction, disregarding the Arab nation's supreme interests and the basic laws of the conflict.

Press Views Purpose of Summit

JN0101112295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Alexandria summit among President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak, and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The paper says that the summit was one of pan-Arab action to confront and contain the deterioration and catastrophic dangers before it is too late and before they jeopardize the Arab entity and Arab solidarity. The objective, the paper says, is to preserve the Arab nation's ability to face up to the challenges, fortify the Arab homeland against any penetration attempts, and to prevent Israel from legalizing its occupation of the Arab territory.

AL-THAWRAH says: The summit has emphasized international legitimacy and the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and to effect a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 border, and also from southern Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory, including Arab Jerusalem. The summit also expressed appreciation for Syria's stands and efforts and reiterated constant support for Syria's fair demands. All this is an explicit victory for the concept of a just, comprehensive peace and a defeat for Israel's logic of aggression, usurpation, and policy of evasion and obstruction. It is an acknowledgement of the soundness of Damascus's course, performance, and pan-Arab stands which constitute the basis of the Arab position in the search for a just, comprehensive peace.

Concluding its article, the paper says that the Alexandria summit and its results have been an expression of Arab rejection of foreign dictates, the hegemony of the powerful, helplessness toward weaknesses and deteriorations, and the attempts to strike separate deals and exclude others. This stand has proved the Arab nation's constant ability to revive and rejuvenate itself and to reassert its civilized and human role in maintaining the future of mankind and reformulating and redrawing the features of its future.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH says: The joint statement issued by the tripartite summit proves that it has successfully developed a clear-sighted outlook on the pan-Arab future in a spirit of keenness to end inter-Arab

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differences, rally Arab resources, and activate the role of the pan-Arab institutions, particularly the Arab League. The summit also expressed support for Syria and Lebanon in the peace process to ensure the international community's respect for Arab rights and implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy to achieve a just, comprehensive peace that guarantees all parties' rights and dignity and provides a true opportunity to achieve regional security and stability.

The paper adds: Undoubtedly, the tripartite Alexandria summit will constitute a true turning point in the course of pan-Arab action, which needs to be reactivated to avoid a catastrophe of unknown dimensions. International and regional changes are immense and accelerating. The Arabs must be united, at least in their views, orientations, and behavior so they can face all current challenges and looming danger.

Under the headline "A victory for Syria's Position," TISHRIN says: The Alexandria summit has reasserted that the just, comprehensive peace sought by Syria, Egypt, And Saudi Arabia is a strategic option. At the same time, the three leaders emphasized that peace must be based on relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. In this context, the leaders greatly appreciated Syria's stands and determined efforts to advance the peace process. They also stressed their unwavering support for Syria's fair demands.

TISHRIN says that in its sincere efforts, Syria has proved that it is capable of maintaining Arab rights and adhering to the constants, bases, and principles of the peace process. This has placed Israel in a bottleneck and a trap from which the Rabin government is trying to free itself, employing crooked ways and acts of deception and creating obstacles to sabotage the peace process.

The paper adds: Hence, Syria has exerted every possible effort to maintain the peace process and save it from every Israeli threat and attempt to push the peace process into dark tunnels aimed to liquidate Arab rights in the interest of the occupation and the Israeli policy of imposing the status quo.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says that nothing but Syria's constants, which are based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of giving back territory in return for peace, will ensure the achievement of an equal, balanced, just, and comprehensive peace. The Alexandria summit's results and support for Syria's position and fair demands for the success of the peace process prove beyond any doubt that Syria's policy is the true reflection of the Arab conscience, aspirations, and objective of restoring their rights and territory. Syria will keep its pledge to defend those rights and will tirelessly work to protect Arab destiny and existence.

Paper on 'Reconciliation'

JN0301121495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the great significance of the Alexandria summit on the Arab and international levels, saying: The Alexandria tripartite summit has outlined of the next phase on the Arab scene. Similarly, it provided a signal that weakness and rifts will be eliminated. Consequently, this will blow all Israeli bets, and finish off Israel's perceived ability to neutralize pan-Arab institutions and organizations.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Alexandria summit has confirmed that regardless of how aggravated their disputes may be, tolerance among the Arabs is possible—contrary to the wishes of the Zionists, who thought that the Arabs' role would remain diminished. The outcome of the summit has sent a signal regarding the possible achieving unity and healing rifts.

The paper also believes that the developments that will be seen in the new year will certainly demonstrate that Israeli calculations are mistaken, and that the Arabs constitute a single nation that has what it takes to survive, effect a renaissance, and achieve victory.

The paper expresses the absolute conviction that just as the elimination of the Arab nation is impossible to achieve, the continued superiority of Israel over 200 million Arabs is impossible to maintain. Consequently, we can safely say that all Israel's attempts to split Arab ranks through temporary side penetrations will fail to ensure Israel's peace and security, because it is the Arab people who will have the final say in this regard.

The paper goes on to say: Israel's rejection of the principle of trading land for peace will deny it an opportunity deemed historic by its own friends. This is because the Arabs' quest for development will not stop at the limits desired by Israel.

The paper concludes by saying: The Alexandria summit has laid a foundation for tolerance, reconciliation, and forgiveness among the Arabs—one that will serve as a catalyst for renaissance. This foundation will also help them ward off the dangers posed to their present, political future, territories, and economy.

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Bangladesh

Prime Minister Addresses Nation

BK0101153195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1315 GMT 1 Jan 95

[Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman's address to the nation; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear countrymen: Peace be upon you. I am here before you at an important juncture of Bangladesh's politics. Democracy has been established in the country after nine years of long struggle. I feel it necessary to inform you as to how far we have succeeded in fulfilling our responsibility, which you entrusted to us, to protect that democracy. An autocratic rule was established in the country by illegally deposing the elected government of the Bangladesh National Party [BNP]. It was from that time that we started the struggle to restore democracy in the country. You were uncompromising in that struggle. We have lost many of our compatriots in that countrywide struggle. The nation will always respectfully remember their contribution. Our united struggle brought an end to the autocratic rule. In the free and fair elections in 1991, the BNP, being the major party leading the democratic movement, was designated by you to run the government.

Dear countrymen, you know that the country's economy was totally shattered due to the nine year's of autocratic rule. The educational sphere was gripped by apprehension and [word indistinct]. The purchasing power of the peasants, laborers, and man in the street had plummeted to zero. The national exchequer was empty due to the plunder during the autocratic rule. Inflation was out of control. All social values had been eroded. Democratic institutions had become nonexistent. It was in such a devastated socioeconomic situation that we assumed responsibility for running the government. We established parliamentary democracy in the country by getting the 12th constitutional amendment bill passed by the august House of Parliament, which was established through free and fair elections. Our political and constitutional commitment is to strengthen the democratic process and to restore democratic norms at all levels of the society. We are steadily marching forward toward fulfilling that commitment. I am proud to say today that a democratic system never before witnessed by the people of this country is now operating in the country The country today enjoys uninterrupted freedom of speech, [word indistinct] and views. The press—one of the pillars of democracy—has been given complete freedom. The judiciary has now been made completely free. The accountability of the administration has been ensured through the parliamentary standing committees. Local governments are being run by elected representatives.

Dear countrymen, during the 1991 elections, we took an oath and promised you the country's socioeconomic progress. It is necessary to inform you how far we have succeeded in fulfilling that pledge despite various unwanted obstacles. We have been made to work relentlessly day and night to rebuild the economic infrastructure which was shattered under the autocratic rule. With your cooperation, we have almost attained success in our efforts toward economic rehabilitation and the developmental process. We have now almost succeeded in eliminating the image of a poverty-stricken and helpless Bangladesh, which the world community once witnessed with great pain during the nine years of autocratic rule. We have also succeeded in getting rid of the stigma that we had to bear for a long time [words indistinct] due to the wastage of resources and corruption. We have taken practical steps in the spheres of industrialization, investment and other sectors by democratization and economic reforms, giving priority to the private sector, the introduction of market economy, the establishment of economic discipline, the building up of the infrastructure, and self-employment schemes. As a result, for the outside world, Bangladesh is now being considered as a developing economy of South Asia. Industrialized countries of the world today are choosing Bangladesh for investment. If the present tempo infused into the economy can be maintained, then Bangladesh might not need foreign aid by the end of this decade.

You know, by now, that we have considerably reduced our dependence on foreign countries. In the current fiscal year's development budget, our own resources amounted to about 38 percent, compared with a figure of zero in 1990. The foreign exchange reserve today is over $3 billion, about 130 billion crore taka. This is an all-time record for Bangladesh. The inflation rate has been brought down to the minimum due to the restoration of discipline in the economy and reforms in the revenue and currency policies. Consequently, prices are stable. The trend of increasing per capita income is also continuing. Our export earnings have increased more than 30 billion taka per year as a result of incentives to various exported-oriented industries. Bangladesh Stock Exchange has now created an unprecedented stir in the investment market. All these point to the development of the economy of a country.

Dear countrymen, the long absence of the opposition parties from the Parliament—which you established after much suffering and misery and at the cost of lot of blood—is truly a matter of anguish for us. The objective for which you had elected all of us was to restore democracy and ensure economic prosperity. It is democracy which provides an interrupted means to modern civilization, human rights, and development of mental (?personality). Mankind has so far failed to discover any alternative to the democratic system for its wellbeing. The concept of democracy was established in society to enable the venting of political opposition, anguish, and protest through a set of procedures. We have to express our differences with others through that set of procedures so that we can maintain the social system, peace, and stability. We will have to continue our fight with logic and argument. However, if we engage in a fight with

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each other by resorting to unconstitutional and unlawful procedures and ignoring Parliament, then the whole democratic structure will collapse. And it will take many years to rebuild that collapsed structure. However, for Bangladesh time is currently at a premium.

Of course, we do have poverty; we have the curse of lack of education; and we have economic backwardness. This is the appropriate time to overcome these things. Therefore, at this juncture of globalization, wasting time will be nothing but a luxury.

We did not lack sincerity in resolving the issue over which the elected representatives of opposition parties have boycotted Parliament, nor do we lack it now. We did not fall short of doing whatever they wanted within the framework of the Constitution. With the objective of making the election process more fair and free, we have passed in Parliament the People's Representation Amendment Bill 94 and the Voters List Amendment Bill 94. With the passage of the two bills, the Election Commission has been so strong that it now enjoys the most powerful position in all election-related matters. At present, there is not a single opportunity for any party, individual, or administration to exert influence over the election process. Additionally, the decision to issue photo-identity cards to voters to free the election process from forged voting will guarantee that all citizens vote themselves.

Dear countrymen, despite these steps and repeated appeals, the opposition did not return to Parliament. Under their irrational and [words indistinct] started creating hurdles to the country's democracy and economic progress. That created concern at various quarters in the country and outside.

At one (?stage) we sat for talks with the opposition parties at the initiative of the Commonwealth secretary general. The special envoy of the Commonwealth secretary general, Sir Ninian Stephen, was in Dhaka for over a month during the dialogue process. We agreed to give maximum concessions within the constitutional framework at the negotiating table for the cause of democracy and economic progress. On the other hand, the opposition parties also gave their proposals. After considering the proposals of both sides, Sir Ninian recommended one proposal. Despite being the majority party, we expressed our good intentions by accepting it in the interest of the country, but the opposition parties did not agree to accept the proposal. Being a legal government established through fair elections, we agreed to the proposal for the setting up of an interim government comprised of equal members from the government and the opposition parties. The opposition parties did not show any respect for our broad outlook. They continued their earlier unconstitutional activities aimed at ousting the government.

Dear countrymen, they are increasing the miseries of the people and attempting to obstruct the progress of the country by resorting to strikes, sieges, and unruly activities. This has become a cause of anguish for all of us. For us, the interest of the country and the nation comes above all. Our people want peace, the education of their children, and security for their businesses. The general toiling masses want security of food and livelihood. For the continuance of the democratic system and the process of development which we have introduced and for the sake of understanding, we, despite being an elected government, have taken one step forward and proposed that I and my government will step aside from the responsibility of running the affairs of the government 30 days before the next general elections. However, it is unfortunate that they are not willing to accept even this proposal. Under these circumstances, there is no other alternative for us but to exercise the sovereign authority and constitutional responsibility which has been entrusted to us by the people. The opposition parties can deviate from the pledge which they made to the people, but it is not possible for us to do so. It is the responsibility of both the government and the opposition parties to uphold the democratic process and the Constitution. The side which steps aside from performing this responsibility will one day have to be accountable to the people of this country. I hope that the opposition parties will be able to realize this truth. In this context I am again telling them that the best way to establish social stability and progress is to express all of their protest and concern through the constitutional structure. Hence, I am making an open appeal to the opposition parties to come back within the healthy process of the constitutional and democratic system.

Dear countrymen, I can firmly give you this assurance that we will sincerely perform the responsibility which you entrusted to us. Democracy, the constitution, and progress are our first and last words.

Dear countrymen, I know that you are today vocal against the activities which are opposed to peace, discipline, and progress. The reason behind this is that today your sufferings are continuing to increase. Given this situation, I am firmly declaring that we will make all out efforts to uphold democracy and the constitutional process. We are pledged to take all legal measures to fulfill the aspirations of the people and provide their security.

I wish all of you a happy new year in accordance with the English calendar. May God help us. May God take care of you. Long live Bangladesh!

Prime Minister on Future of 'Constitutional Process'

BK0101090395 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman says democracy and the constitutional process in the country will be maintained at any cost. She was addressing two big public meetings, one at Baliakandi

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Zia Swarani [Memorial] and the other at Pansa College maidan [grounds] in Rajbari District yesterday.

The prime minister said by submitting the letters of resignation the opposition MP's have shown disrespect to the people's verdict. Criticizing the opposition statement that following the submission of their resignation letters the present Parliament has become illegal, Begum Ziaur Rahman said this Parliament is totally legal and constitutional. There remains 172 elected MP's in this Parliament. Hence, the Parliament is legal. We will continue our functions as per the Constitution and rules. The prime minister said the opposition did not want to see the flourishment of the democratic process and the existence of Parliament. She said the people are above all of us. We shall do and are doing everything necessary to establish the rights of the people.

Referring to the people's right to franchise, Begum Ziaur Rahman said her government has ensured a system so that voters can cast their votes freely and fairly. The prime minister said the country will need 300 to 400 crore taka to strengthen the Election Commission as well as to provide every voter an identity card. Despite Bangladesh being a poor country, the government has initiated this very costly venture for the sake of the people's interest.

The prime minister recalled the entire dialogue process and said that her democratically elected government had accepted the formula of national government given by Sir Ninian Stephen [Commonwealth secretary general's envoy] but the opposition did not agree. Begum Ziaur Rahman said if (?there were) no hartals [strikes] or sieges, foreign investors would come to Bangladesh with investment of thousands of crores of taka to create millions of new jobs in the country. She said it is the democratic right of the people to ply their vehicles on roads freely and keep open their shops and business centers to earn their living and (?not) stopping their functions by calling hartals frequently. The prime minister called upon the opposition and sought their cooperation in carrying forward the democratic process in the country.

India

Reportage on Iranian Foreign Minister Visit

Velayati Arrives for Talks

BK0201125495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a three-day visit. He will attend the eighth meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission beginning tomorrow. The deliberations are expected to identify new areas of economic cooperation between the two countries. A few agreements are also likely to be signed at the end of the official-level talks. Dr. Velayati will meet the prime minister and the external affairs minister during the stay. The Iranian minister will also participate in the golden jubilee celebrations of the Confederation of Indian Industry in Calcutta beginning on Wednesday.

Rao, Velayati Discuss Railways

BK0201161895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] India and Iran have identified railways as one of the key areas for collaboration. The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, was told that railways is an area in which Indian expertise can be useful to Iran. The two leaders felt that the two countries should work out viable projects in this field. Mr. Rao, who visited Iran during September 1993, said New Delhi is ready and willing to collaborate with Iran and suggested that the Indo-Iran Joint Commission should work out concrete possibilities. [passage omitted]

Velayati Delivers Rafsanjani Message

LD0301063095 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 3 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Jan. 3, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao here on Monday and submitted him a written message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his message, President Rafsanjani while referring to potential grounds has called for expansion of Tehran-New Delhi bilateral cooperation in economic and political fields.

He has also expressed the hope that Iran-India joint economic commission would achieve fruitful results.

President Rafsanjani also hoped that he could make a visit to India in the first opportune moment.

Later, Velayati and Rao discussed bilateral cooperation in such fields as railways and transit of Indian goods to the Central Asian republic [as received] via Iran.

'Press Release' Issued on Talks

BK0301103795 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0859 GMT 3 Jan 95

["Press Release"—ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati called on the prime minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao here today and conveyed the greetings and good wishes of president, Rafsanjani. He said the Iranian side would like to work with the India side to re-schedule the postponed visit of the president. The prime minister said that we had been looking forward to receiving President Rafsanjani and would be glad to welcome him when the visit is rescheduled.

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The Iranian foreign minister mentioned various possibilities in Iran-India economic interaction, such as the gas pipeline project. The prime minister told his visitor that we were ready to collaborate with Iran in this field and that the two sides should work to identify and concretise various projects. The Iranian foreign minister further mentioned possibilities of cooperation in the railway sector, especially in relation to transit to Central Asian countries. The prime minister was of the view that India would be willing to collaborate with Iran with the expertise that India possessed in this field. The prime minister suggested that the Iranian side should work out concrete possibilities with the Indian authorities concerned.

The prime minister conveyed his greetings and good wishes to President Rafsanjani and asked the Iranian foreign minister to convey to the president that the Indian side would be working to make president's visit to India fruitful and successful.

The Iranian foreign minister was accompanied by the Iranian ambassador to India.

New Delhi.

January 92, 1995 [date as received].

Commentary on Minister's Visit, Ties

BK0201123595 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Jan 95

[Commentary by M.K. Kaul: "Velayati's Visit To Boost Indo-Iranian Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meet in New Delhi from today along with its five subcommissions is expected to see through some concrete proposals of mutual interest of the two countries. Such hopes soaring high between the two sides is natural since no less than the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati—who is on a three-day visit—is heading the Iranian side. Of course it goes without saying that the Indian side too will be represented at the top by an appropriate dignitary of the matching level. It shows how much the two countries share each other's concern with an equal understanding of each other's perspective.

A peep into the history of the two ancient civilizations bring forth vistas of mutual understanding and relatively conflictless political, economic, and sociocultural interaction. The Aryans settled in Iran before wandering into the Indian subcontinent. For the doubting Thomases, one can only refer to the Rig Veda and the (Arista)—the two oldest scriptures of the two countries, with the former in Sanscrit and the latter in Persian—and if they just browse through their pages, they will to their surprise come across common names for several gods and even social classes.

The joint commission meet, which is taking place after a gap of nine months, is expected to take up a number of mutually beneficial proposals. Among them are Iran-India gas pipeline, railway projects, as also fertilizer and setting up of sugar factories.

Not very surprisingly, some 40-odd companies of repute have tendered for the feasibility study of the proposed gas pipeline. A few of them are said to have been shortlisted too. If one goes by the bus in the corridors of the concerned authorities, the tender is expected to be awarded within a fortnight or so. The basic idea underlying the studies being that overland and undersea gas pipelines should be kept in view so that when final decision is taken nothing is left to a chance. It is because the overland route lies through Pakistan and one cannot be sure as to what situation would be prevailing there at what time given the experience of last almost half a century. The issue of its financing will be considered after cost estimates of the project are ready. One view is that the job should be entrusted to a consortium in which the governments of the two countries should be minor partners, as the major shareholdings should remain in the hands of private sectors of the two countries. Though no final view has been reached on this, it is expected that the proposal may find acceptance within both the governments in view of the cost of the project, especially when neither of the two governments would like to (?suture) their sources on projects which have wide acceptance within the private sectors.

Iran is keen about the Indian participation in two of its prestigious railway projects—one between Kerman and Zahedan and other between (Basbi) and Mashhad. The latter one is expected to cut the distance between Bandar Abbas and Mashhad by nearly 800 km. The importance of the two railways routes lies in the fact that they could help promote the trade with the Central Asia to which both the countries are committed. In view of the gigantic size of the two railway projects, the cost too is naturally going to be in equal proportion. Such being the case, the Iranian side has not shown any inclination to finance the proposed projects from the public exchequer. It wants these projects to be entrusted to the private sector within Iran or India, else it would like them to be the leasing projects, say for 20 years. It is felt that the duration is enough for the investing party to recover investment for the profit margin through transit fee collections.

Besides, as the grapevine has, Dr. Velayati as a consummate politician-economist would not miss the opportunity to discuss political issues when he calls on the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasima Rao, and other Indian leaders. It has not gone unregistered in Tehran that sudden cancellation of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to India has caused a lot of consternation in New Delhi. Dr. Velayati is expected to apply soothing balm as he would certainly explain the Iranian compulsion about the unexpected cancellation, especially when earlier Iran had taken a positive stand on Kashmir in the Islamic Conference Organization meet.

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Iran

Majles Speaker: Military Achieved Self-Sufficiency

LD0101183295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The commendation plaque and gifts approved by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader, were presented to a number of commanders of the armed forces and those involved in military industries.

According to a report by our correspondent, the ceremony was attended by a large number of the commanders of the armed forces and those involved in the manufacturing and production of military industries. In a speech, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles, said the kindness shown by the great leader and commander-in-chief to the armed forces and the military industries is a valuable blessing for them all. He added: Thanks to God, we stand today in such a position that we have reached self-sufficiency from the view point of military industries production. This issue has caused fear and concern for the global powers especially for the United States.

Referring to the fact that the military budget of the Islamic Republic of Iran in comparison to that of the countries in the region is considerably less, the Majles speaker added: This is great honor for the armed forces that we do not depend on outside countries concerning military purchases.

Judiciary To Fight Social Vices, Set Penalties

LD0201172795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the country's judicial officials today discussed practical ways of confronting social vices and setting harsher punishments for the perpetrators of acts of mischief [shararat].

According to our correspondent's report, in this meeting, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, said: Respect for people's property and public security is very important in Islam. On this basis, judicial officials in various parts of the country must bear in mind their grave responsibility in this connection and defend the rights of the members of public.

In this meeting, furthermore, decisions were made on regulations in connection with establishing and stationing 50 new judicial departments in the country's deprived areas and populous districts during the course of the second five-year development plan. These decisions were subsequently referred to the Justice Ministry for implementation.

Satellite Station in Ilam Province Operational

LD0101134795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A satellite television station in the Shirvan area of Ilam Province has become operational. Here is a report:

[Correspondent] With the setting up of a satellite television station in the Shirvan area of Ilam Province, the inhabitants of five rural areas in the Ilam and Lorestan Provinces will be able to receive the programs of the First Television Network.

The station is situated in Chamjangal village in the Shirvan area, where 300 families in this and Zoheyri village, as well as inhabitants of Abzar, Sargandab, and Chamgardab villages in the Lorestan Province—neighboring the Shirvan area—will be able to receive the first network programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Vision on channel 12.

The station, with a power of five watts, was installed and commissioned by the staff of the Repair and Maintenance Unit of the television and FM transmitters of the Ilam Voice and Vision Center.

Majles Approves Bill Banning Satellite Reception

LD0101132695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The debate on a bill to ban the use of satellite equipment ended in today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. The bill was given a second reading and referred to the Guardians Council for study. Here is our correspondent with a report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Following the adoption of the bill by the Majles deputies, bodies and organizations that need satellite reception equipment in order to conduct their lawful business must obtain the necessary permit from the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry.

According to other articles of the bill that bans satellite reception equipment, which was approved in today's open Majles session, importers, producers, and distributors of satellite reception equipment, in addition to having their equipment confiscated, will be fined 10 to 100 million rials. Those who use this kind of equipment will have their equipment confiscated, and will be fined 1 to 3 million rials. Carrying, storing, installing, and repairing satellite reception equipment are also banned, and offenders will be fined 1 to 5 million rials.

According to the bill, the money from fines will be turned over to the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision Organization for the purpose of fighting the cultural

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onslaught. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, in cooperation with the PTT Ministry and other relevant organizations, is required to use legal and international instruments to guard the state cultural border and safeguard the primacy of family against the destructive and banal satellite programs.

The bill bans various advertisements by the press, Voice and Vision, or bill posting which require a satellite reception permit. A Majles member's proposal was also adopted which makes the bill statutory for a period of three years. This period can be renewed if required. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on Banning of Satellite Equipment

MS0301110095 London THE TIMES in English 3 Jan 95 p 8

[Report by Michael Binyon: "Iran Ready to Rip Down TV Dishes in War on 'Indecent West'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran, at the forefront of the campaign by Islamic activists to turn back the tide of Western influence, announced yesterday it was ready to tear down all satellite dishes after parliament passed a law at the weekend banning their import and distribution.

The parliamentary Bill, which will become law when ratified by the Council of Guardians next week, empowers the Ministry of Islamic Guidance to "safeguard cultural boundaries of the country and of its families against destructive and indecent satellite programmes".

The law gives satellite users a month to remove their dishes or face prosecution. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi, the Interior Minister, said police would move in after that date. A police helicopter flew over several districts of Tehran yesterday to pinpoint houses and flats fitted with dishes, and Muslim militias have also drawn up lists of owners, who face fines of up to 1,000 pounds for disobeying the new law.

There are an estimated 250,000 satellite dishes in Tehran and more in other large cities. Some three million people are now regularly tuning in to Western broadcasts. Iranian clerics have denounced Western, mainly American, satellite programmes as pornographic and corrupting, and for months have been agitating for a ban on all satellite equipment.

The demand has met strong passive resistance from educated, middle-class Iranians, who watch Western programmes as an escape from the boredom of the puritanical regime. Some officials have also given a warning that banning dishes would force people to watch Western stations clandestinely. Iran has attempted to meet the demand by producing its own programmes, but these adhere to the rigid religious guidelines on what can be portrayed, and carry only official information.

Many Muslim and Third World countries are increasingly worried by the rapid spread of Western satellite broadcasting, which is seen as a form of cultural imperialism. So persuasive are the images of Western lifestyles, and so hooked are many people on soap operas, that the programmes have begun to influence fashion, taste, music, material demands, ways of thinking, and even—as many governments feared—political attitudes.

In Tehran's parliamentary debate, Nafiseh Fayaz-Bakhsh, a woman deputy, said: "I have heard some barber shops and beauty salons say, 'Our customers especially young ones, ask us for the make-up, hair cut or dress style of last nights programme on satellite television. When a 15-year-old or 18-year-old sees attractive programmes by satellite, when he or she listens to CNN or BBC news... will they be willing to listen to our news?" Iran has stepped up customs controls to stop the smuggling of satellite dishes, whose cost, before the ban, had fallen to about 290 pounds. The main armed opposition group, the People's Mujahidin, based in Iraq, denounced the ban as state repression, saying it showed foreign information posed a threat to the Tehran regime.

Saudi Arabia has also tried to curb the spread of satellite dishes, and last March passed a law banning their import or manufacture after strenuous complaints by religious leaders. The Saudi Government called for the compulsory sale of all existing dishes, and said satellite programmes that conformed to Saudi "religious and social values" would instead be shown on cable television.

The attempts by governments to prevent popular access to Western television appears doomed to fail, as dishes become smaller, smuggling grows, and the amount and variety of programmes broadcast by satellite increase. The BBC has recently increased the output of World Service Television, and plans a further big expansion this year, with an increase in regional programming. The BBC Arabic Service has already begun using a satellite which is controlled by Saudi interests.

Larijani Message Carried on Swahili Broadcast

LD0101125195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To mark the beginning of the mission of the honorable messenger of God, a foreign broadcast in Swahili has begun for the African countries of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda, and Comoros.

According to Mr. Sarafraz, deputy in charge of the Voice and Visions external programs, the Swahili program will be broadcast at 2030 Tehran time for a half hour on the FM frequency. Its programs will address various political, cultural, and social issues.

In a message to mark the beginning of the program Mr. Larijani, head of the Sound and Vision Organization, said the program will bring the Muslim nation of Iran and closer to the African nations.

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The first Swahili radio program began with the anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by a recitation of the holy Koran and speeches by the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran about Africa.

Daily Calls Alexandria Meeting 'Deceitful Show'

LD0101092695 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 1 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—The morning english-language daily, IRAN NEWS, here Sunday editorialized on the recent visit to Oman of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and said that Sultan Qabus welcomed Yitzhaq Rabin at a time when Tel Aviv had not retreated an inch from the Golan Heights.

It touched the trilateral meeting of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia in Alexandria and said instead of finding a solution to the problems plaguing the Arab world, the Alexandria meeting was turned into a "deceitful show aimed at duping the public opinion of Middle East Muslims."

"Saudi King Fahd participated in the conference while turning a blind eye on the fact that a member of the Persian Gulf cooperation Council (PGCC) had negotiated with Rabin," wrote the paper.

Apparently, the Alexandria meeting was solely held on an order issued by the U.S. "to exert pressures on Syria to sit at the negotiation table with the Zionists," the paper argued adding that the role of Oman was of significance, in this connection.

In the chain of Middle East developments, it added, the Sultanate of Oman served as the "weakest link and the smallest contributor in Arab wars against Israel. Also, based on its size and wealth, Oman's political and economic role in the Persian Gulf region is by far less than expected."

The Arab states are duty-bound to respect the rights of their neighbors, regardless of their support for, or indifference towards, the cause of Palestine, the daily said.

In the Persian Gulf region, Oman is compelled to coexist with its 7 neighbors the paper said adding hosting the enemies of its neighbors can only damage the cordial relations among the regional countries.

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